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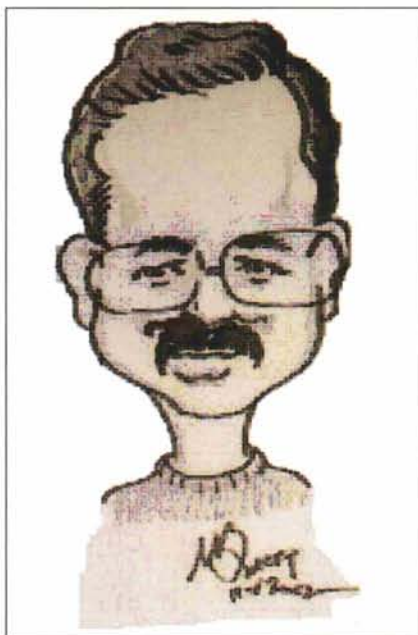
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crowd of 45+ to about a gazillion web sites that have cool weather stuff (making it obvious that his job is basically surfing those sites and then regurgitating what he sees to those who actually watch weekend weather on channel 7). That sounded meaner than I intended—Phil was really a fun speaker, and one who gave us a ray of hope in saying that summer of 2006 would be cool with just the right amount of rainfall (that's what I heard, anyhow). After lunch (and the hottest jardiniere I've ever tasted), Paul Vermeulen spoke about the summer of 2006 and the best methods to deal with difficult growing conditions. One scary point Paul made—a good green with proper ventilation (no trees blocking the breeze) on a 96° day will have an afternoon surface temperature of 106°. A bad green, beset with shade and air circulation issues will have a surface temperature of 121°+! That'll leave a mark. We were then reintroduced to the 60/60/40 rule of how much sun is needed to successfully grow bentgrass—60% of each day's sun is necessary, with 60% of that being morning sun (before solar noon). Moderator and excessively-ribboned-nametag-guy **Keith Krause** found that datum to be “awesome,” as he did with pretty much everything else about the day. Congratulations to everyone on the Class C committee who made this day successful.

Only a week later, on March 2nd, MAGCS members were treated to another fine day of education at Golf House. Dr. Joe Dipaola of Syngenta gave a terrific half-day presentation on “Career Enhancement & Personal Development for Golf Course Superintendents.” May I just blurt out here that all cell phones and pagers should be switched to either silent (if your wife is about to give birth or your blood test results are due) or off (the preferred choice) modes while attending these education seminars? Brad Anderson has the gist of Dr. Joe's talk in his article, but I can't help but pass along this advice from the esteemed speaker—if you are caught redhanded sleeping at your desk by someone of

importance, say “Amen.” And then go and TRY to make your resume fit on one dang page.



Joe Dipaola, or the best likeness we could get of him, presents to the membership at the March Meeting.

Another week, another seminar—this one was an all-day affair at Butterfield Country Club (**Mike Vercautren** host) on the 8th, dubbed the “Chicago Super Seminar” by its sponsors BASF and Lesco. The line-up of presenters was impressive, with such notables as Dr. Rick Latin of Purdue, Dr. Bruce Clarke of Rutgers, **Dr. Randy Kane** of CDGA (or IS he? You'll have to

ask him), and Dr. Joe Vargas of Michigan State taking the podium with their multitudes of knowledge. I came away with 5 pages of notes—and I nodded off for about 3 hours, so there was obviously a LOT of stuff to learn about the new poop and the latest jazz concerning the most current industry dope from the university jamokes.

Although the aforementioned professors of higher learning may have the goods on the latest in research and technology for our industry, Travel Guard International, the self-proclaimed leading provider of travel insurance in the nation, has the market cornered on an AWESOME product for those of us who are cursed with “TTROHMB-WHUGAHIO,” or the “Tendency To Regardless Of How Many Beers We've Had Unwittingly Get A Hole In One” syndrome. The company's 19th Hole coverage offers up to \$250 to golfers who incur extraordinary bar bills resulting from a hole-in-one. Sweet!



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This year's MAGCS Hospitality Suite in Atlanta was a tremendous success. The Association expresses its utmost gratitude to the following commercial members, whose generous contributions made the event possible.



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Hyatt Has "Room" for Golden Tee Club Member's Hospitality Event

I arrived in Atlanta on Wednesday, figuring it would be a good idea to arrive a day early to make sure everything was set for the Hospitality Reception. Little did I know that was going to be the least of my worries! As many MAGCS members learned, the Hyatt Regency was overbooked and there were no rooms available. As Mike Bavier and I waited in line (thank you, Mike, for staying with me to make sure I got as many vouchers as humanly possible!) to see if they were really going to send me away, my hopes were quickly diminished. Right before my eyes, I saw Steve Van Acker, Bob Lively, and Paul Schaefer get into a cab bound for their hotel accommodations in Marietta, GA! If these guys couldn't get a room, I knew my chances were slim to none! To make a long story short, I spent a wonderful night at the beautiful Days Inn by the airport, where they only require a \$10.00 deposit for a phone and/or iron! I quickly signed up for the frequent guest program and settled in for a peaceful "Lysol-scented" night.

Thursday turned out to be a terrific day. My room was ready at the Hyatt and they confirmed they were all set for the Hospitality Reception. Even though they ran out of cold beer, they did a terrific job and the room was beautiful. It accommodated our "larger than expected" crowd easily, and I believe all who attended enjoyed the camaraderie, as well as the delicious food.

This event, of course, would not be possible without the generous support of the 56 members of the MAGCS Golden Tee Club. These generous supporters contributed more than \$44,000 for this year's event. Please take a moment to look at the full-page thank you advertisement listing these sponsors, and remember to support them throughout the year. We were very fortunate to have six brand new sponsors this year: Dow AgroSciences, Griggs Brothers, High PSI, Legacy Products, Pearl Valley Organix, and Phoenix Environmental Care. Thank you so much for sponsoring one of the year's biggest events. To the Superintendents who are reading this article: Please extend your thanks to our sponsors, and if you are in the market for a new product or service, please consider one of these fine companies.

One important aspect of the Hospitality Suite that should not be forgotten is the MAGCS Commercial Committee. This great group of people had to complete the task of contacting each and every class E member to solicit contributions. The MAGCS committee consists of Keith Copersmet of Palatine Oil, Sylvia Lima of Prime Turf,

Howie Shuck of BTSI, Scott Spier of Arthur Clesen, Steve Stewart of TPEC, Marsha Traves of Burris Equipment, Rick Uthe of J.W. Turf, Beth Whitehouse

of Dow Agrosciences, and Sam Wineinger of Lesco. Thank you for all your time and effort!

I also would like to thank all the volunteers who helped at the welcome table and "manning the door." These people are to be commended for giving

(continued on page 28)



Erwin Mckone proves once again his high maintenance needs on travel as Sharon tries to alleviate his pain, Dan Anderson (R) just wonders.

up their free time after a long day at the trade show/seminars: Garry Anderson of Arthur Clesen, John Anderson of Arthur Clesen, Dan Anderson of Phillips Park Golf Course, Paul Bastron of Glen Flora, Ed Braunsky of Geneva Golf Club, Keith Copersmet of Palatine Oil, Joe Etten of TPEC, Brett Grams of Wau-paca Sand & Solutions, Steve Junk of DryJect Midwest, Dan Kisee of Rabine Paving, Kevin Knudson of Arthur Clesen, John Lamkin of Arthur Clesen, Chris Lombardo of Rabine Paving, Erwin Mckone of Briar Ridge Country Club, Todd Schmitz of Phillips Park, Howie Shuck of BTSI, Tim Snell of TPEC, Ted J. Soenksen of TETA, Scot Spier of Arthur Clesen, Steve Stewart of TPEC, and Beth Whitehouse of Dow AgroSciences. A **double thank you** to Brett Grams, Beth Whitehouse, Dan Kisee and Chris Lombardo who

pulled "all-nighters" for me—never leaving my side for an entire night!

Of course, Luke Cella, once again, gave me tremendous support and help with collecting and tracking all of the contributions, and mailing out the guest vouchers to all of our sponsors. Thank you Luke; I don't know how you manage to keep taking on more and still remain calm, cool, and collected.

Special, special thanks to Sylvia Lima, who created the outstanding PowerPoint presentation. This is a lot of work and we should all be grateful to have such a talented individual to put this together. Thank you, Sylvia!

Our scholarship raffle once again was a huge success! I am happy to report that this year's winners were on the "superintendent" side of the business. The first night we received a staggering \$2980, and turned over

\$1490 to Dan Stahl, Assistant Superintendent at Orchard Valley Golf Club. The next night, despite the lower attendance, still yielded a substantial amount: \$1640, half of which—\$820—was given to an ecstatic Dennis Buck, Superintendent of Dwight Country Club. Thank you once again to all who participated in the raffle. Because of you, we have secured \$2300 for the scholarship fund!

Some facts about the Hospitality Suite:

FIRST NIGHT	SECOND NIGHT
275 people.....	170 people
1979 beverages totaling \$16,000 (an all-time high!)	895 beverages
\$11,000 in food.....	\$7,300 in food

Superintendents and their Assistants represented the majority in the room each night.



In years past, we have always had an open door policy, but with rising costs (average drink, with taxes and gratuity, is \$8.18; each morsel of food about \$6.50). We instituted a couple of changes this year. Guests were asked to "check in" and also were required to wear a wristband, to ensure that only MAGCS members and their guests were in the room. This proved to be a prudent move. We had an increase in attendance from the prior year; yet we were confident that all in room "belonged" in the room. I know this required waiting in line to enter the suite and I apologize for the inconvenience. It is a necessary evil and we did stop many a "crasher" with this new procedure.

All in all, the Hospitality Suite's total outlay was \$45,000. Once again, THANK YOU, SPONSORS!

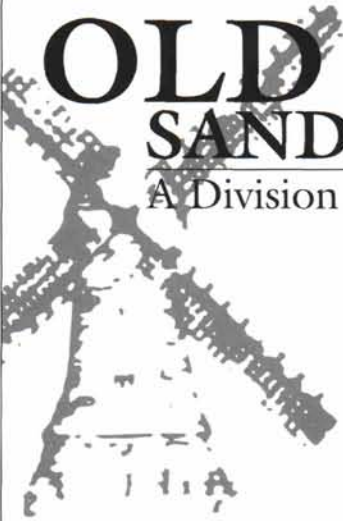
Please keep your eyes open for a survey requesting your input on the Hospitality Suite. We are looking into

making a few changes/improvements, and your input will impact the look and feel of future Hospitality Receptions.

On an ironic note, I just attended my children's school fundraising auction last night. This event offers many different items that are donated by parishioners. It is always fun and I love bidding on the various

items, but there was one item that I did not bid on: a two-night stay at the Hyatt Regency Atlanta.





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The Verdict— Atlanta Was Pretty Cool

The Golf Industry Show, after several attempts to find a home this February, made its way to Atlanta, thankful to be anywhere that could handle it. Although conspired against by hurricanes, funerals, and countless other obstacles, the show did go on, and it turned out better than most people had expected. Sure, attendance was down a bit, but not as far down as was estimated. And sure, it wasn't New Orleans and Bourbon Street and Paul Prudhomme, but Peachtree Drive and Hooter's weren't a bad fallback position. And though the weather could definitely have been warmer, it could have been a lot colder, too. So the basic question one must ask when harkening back to memories of the show in Atlanta is, "Was my glass half empty, or was it half full?"

The beginning of the festivities took place in Houston, where a slimmed-down version of the MAGCS golf contingency went into battle for bragging rights in the National Championship and Golf Classic. In the Championship Flight, Al Pondel, CGCS of Rockford Country Club was our top dog, winding up in fifth place, four strokes behind the winner. In the Chapter competition, the MAGCS #1 team of Dave Kohley, Al Pondel, Tommy Robinson, and Tim Scott placed sixth with a 175. Team #2 with Dave Arden, Tim Davis, Brad Legnaioli, and Dave Radaj finished ninth with 171. With a glass half full, that's pretty darn good, huh?

Next stop was Atlanta and the show—another impressive trade show with something for everybody: a vast array of educational seminars, classes, and presentations, and, of course, all those fun evening events. Once again, the Midwest put its best foot forward in hosting the epitome of hospitality suites. The venue in the Hyatt Regency, the volunteers who gave of their time to greet our members and guests, and the sponsors whose contributions were so generous, all came together to make it one of the finest in recent memory. There are simply too many people to thank for their part in the success of the two-night event, but we have to mention Commercial Advisor Sharon Riesenbeck and her team of dedicated and selfless volunteers. Outstanding job, everyone!

Easy as it is to get all caught up in the evening entertainment activities, some pretty important business gets done at these shows, too. For one, GCSAA's officers for 2006 were elected, including President Sean Hoolehan, who I'm sure several of you remember from his days working here in our midst at Butler National in the early '80s. Another event with a Midwest flavor to it was Golfweek's SuperNEWS Superintendent of the Year Award, which included in its list of nine finalists Erwin

McKone of Briar Ridge Country Club. The award went to Mark Burchfield of the Victoria Club in Riverside, Calif., but a toast with a half-full glass to Erwin for being a finalist and getting his mug on the cover of the magazine. Last, but certainly not least, the very magazine you are reading made some noise by winning the GCSAA Chapter Publications contest for the second consecutive year in Category 4. So now the glass is looking about two-thirds full, right?

There is a decided advantage to having the big show in a city like Atlanta—once it's over, you just go home. There's no real reason to stay around and extend the trip (unless you've been waiting your whole life to take that tour of CNN). And that's where my story ends—at the airport in Atlanta, sitting in a lounge with a sizable portion of the MAGCS membership, reliving the events of the previous days while sipping at our three-quarters-full glasses. Pretty cool, not bad, better than expected, were the words bandied about. Then, here's this group of soldiers who, it turns out through eavesdropping on their conversations, are just back from Iraq. They're sitting in our lounge, waiting for their flights that will take them home to their families who are waiting to hear all of their stories. And a guy—I wish it had been me—walks up to the bar, whispers something to the barkeep, and the next thing you know, each of those soldiers has a big ol' cold beer placed in front of him, compliments of that guy, that complete stranger. I watch him walk out of the bar, I watch the soldiers tip their glasses to him in thanks, I watch him thank them for all they've done and shake each of their hands, and I go get on my plane with that picture in my mind—and like those soldiers, my glass is now full. Atlanta was pretty cool. 