

Smooth Transitions

Grinding, lapping, facing, filing, squaring, leveling, adjusting, rotating, and rebuilding are just a few of the things that technicians do to cutting units over and over again. This labor takes place thanks to sand, growth, sand, verti-cutting, sand and did I mention sand? Technicians do know the importance of sand on greens; in fact, it helps our cutting units look better as they roll across the turf in the middle of a hot, humid, season. Of course, sand topdressing also gives us job security. I hope everyone's season is going well and your courses are looking great.

I'm Kevin Bauer and I have worked in the golf course industry for twenty years. I started when I was thirteen years old searching for creek balls, attending golf cars, and eventually working on a maintenance crew. Chuck Totten, whom I met at a TETA meeting, gave me my first real break into the technician field. He provided me a chance to work for Kemper Sports Management and learn my trade. Soon I found myself working for Illinois Lawn Equipment where I was fortunate to gain factory training, and many other valuable experiences in this occupation. I then returned to Big Run Golf Club, where I first started but now as the Equipment Manager and not a golf car attendant. I was finally able to draw on all of my factory training, experience and put it to real everyday golf course use.

I have been married for 10 years to my wife Jennifer. Together we have two children Scout and Benjamin. I have served on the TETA Board of Directors for seven years and it has been a privilege to work with the other board members. There are many items, such as educational seminars, trade show events, EETC testing, and other things that are discussed and decided by the board, which benefit all technicians. As with most associations, TETA needs more participation from its membership. This will foster fresh ideas and offer new perspectives to add to our growing organization. I ask technicians to step forward and take part in serving each other.

Recently I have taken a job with the Lockport Park District and Prairie Bluff Golf Club. It has been very busy. As with any change, I am reminded how important teamwork is for success. I thank Terry Hogan of Big Run Golf Club for supporting me for the past seven years. Terry always worked with me and allowed me to incorporate a good periodic maintenance (PM) schedule while he realized the importance of my profession. I also thank Ken Shepherd at Prairie Bluff Golf Club for his overwhelming support and constant cooperation as I start my new adventure. Here two superintendents, who have different ways of running their courses, however, both recognize the importance and value of a good service technician.

They both have made it clear how a solid technician can benefit the course and the product they produce.

I worked hard to make the transition from one course to the next as smooth as possible. We worked hard to create a PM schedule at Big Run Golf Club and I wanted to ensure its success after I had left. A few key things to do prior to leaving any position are:

- Make sure all of the equipment records are organized, neat and thorough. Each piece of equipment has a history and I wanted to record it for my successor.
- Make sure all operators and service manuals are organized and clearly marked.
- Create a vendor list of the companies, contacts and account numbers that are often used. Often the new technician will bring their own contacts to their place of employment, but it is always a nice gesture to offer this information to the person (especially if they are from out of the area).
- Go through the parts room and remove any unnecessary clutter that only you knew why you were holding onto it. (Everyone has that piece or pile of pieces that you are saving for just in case, but only you know their value.)
- Repair the equipment as if you were staying at the club. If this is the year to rebuild cutting units then do so. Actions like these prove your character and value.
- Try not to leave problematic issues with equipment, without at least documenting or sharing them with the new person.
- Share any special modifications that you have done to machines with the superintendent and the replacement technician.
- Leave the cutting units in good order and adjusted properly.
- If possible, try to spend some time with your replacement and the superintendent going over the machines, schedules and your practices.

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the Bull Sheet

John Gurke, CGCS, Associate Editor

DATES TO REMEMBER

July 1 – Deadline for nominating GCSAA members for the 2007 Board of Directors.

July 3 – 9 – Western Open at Cog Hill Golf Club in Lemont, IL, **Ken Lapp** host.

July 13 – CAGCS monthly meeting at Cress Creek Country Club, **Bill Kennedy** host.

July 13 – “Understanding and Complying With the Ever-Changing Employment and Labor Laws in Illinois” seminar in Naperville, IL. Call 866-352-9539 for details.

July 15 – MAGCS Kane Country Cougars family outing at Elfstrom Field in Geneva, IL.

July 15 – Deadline for nominations for the Golden Wrench Award presented by Golfweek’s SuperNEWS and sponsored by Foley United. E-mail your nomination for best equipment technician

to jreitman@golfweek.com or mail to Tech of the Year, c/o John Reitman, 1500 Park Center Drive, Orlando, FL 32835.

July 20 – MAGCS “Midsummer Siesta” gathering at Dave & Buster’s in Addison, IL. More info follows.

August 17 – 20 – PGA Championship at Medinah Country Club, **Tom Lively**, CGCS host.

August 21 – MAGCS monthly meeting at McHenry Country Club in McHenry, IL, **Bill Humphres** host.

September 14, 2006 – ITF / U of I / CDGA Research Field Day, Midwest Golf House

September 25 – MAGCS monthly meeting and Annual Golf Championship at Makray Memorial Golf Club in Barrington, IL, **Chris Blake** host.

mening at 6 bells in the evening. The idea behind this gathering, which is open to all MAGCS members, is to offer a little respite from the grueling summer and provide attendees with the opportunity to relax with their peers and let off some midsummer steam. Come on over to D&B’s and take a chill pill. Call Class C Advisory Chairman **John Ekstrom** at 815-922-0587 for more information.

Exciting news from MAGCS member **Rusty Stachlewitz**, the former turfgrass management instructor at Kishwaukee College. Rusty has accepted the position of Director of Fundraising for the International Turf Producers Foundation, based in East Dundee, Illinois. His new duties will involve international travel to exotic destinations even further away than his hometown of Mendota—places like Australia (where I’m told they grow most of Japan’s sod, as there are only 2 sod farms in Japan) and Antarctica (where global warming has given birth to some of the finest and cheapest turf-growing land in the world). Rusty’s main goal will be to raise money for turfgrass research and education through wining and dining and schmoozing all the players in the turf production industry—a job he should fit right into! Congratulations, Rusty, and best of luck to you!



Rusty Stachlewitz

As of June 30th, **Lee Miller** will be migrating to North Carolina State University to begin work as a PhD candidate. Lee will be working under the direction of Dr. Lane

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Would I sound like a scratched record if I mentioned that you can get MAGCS news as fast as it happens when you sign up for e-mail updates? Would I also sound like that same scratched record if I told you that one simple call to Luke Cella at 630-243-7900 will get the job done? Do we now have members that don’t know what a record was?

Big news from GCSAA and the always entertaining *Tradeshow Week* (which I’m going out on a limb and guessing is a weekly magazine about trade shows): The Inaugural Golf Industry Show held in Orlando in February of 2005 received the number 82 ranking in the list of the top

200 annual trade shows among 3,600 held. A record 22,723 people attended the show, but that wasn’t what got us the big #82. Turns out floor space is the deciding factor, and GIS had the 82nd highest square feet of paid exhibit space. This tells me that there are 81 trade shows that are bigger than ours, so we’d better get on the ball here and sign up some more associations to join our party, right?

This month, on the 20th, the Class C Advisory Committee has come up with another brilliant idea (picture the Guinness guys here)—the “Midsummer Siesta” will take place at Dave & Buster’s in Addison com-

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Tredway, who incidentally will be speaking at this year's **Illinois Professional Turfgrass Conference** on a number of pathology topics. Lee's research project is sponsored by Bayer and will focus on the identification and control of the fungi that cause fairy rings. The project should be completed in 3-4 years, after which everyone will be required to still call him "Lee". Even if he doesn't return to Illinois, Lee still hopes to contribute by doing research broad enough that it will aide in disease control here as well.

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If you are a CAGCS (Chicagoland Association of Golf Course Superintendents) member, you have surely taken note of the new and improved Verdure newsletter that **Jon Jennings, CGCS** (Chicago Golf Club) has been producing. Along with the addition of color photography, Jon has been throwing in some interesting tidbits of information and research on various fronts, including United States Open tournament preparation guidelines and data on whether swing speed truly affects distance—both from the USGA. Interestingly, data shows that, although distance is increased with club head speed at the lower levels, those players with already-high swing speeds (the Tigers and Phils and Vijays) do not get an extra length benefit from the new technology in golf balls and clubs. So slow your swing down and STILL hit that driver 190.

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As was mentioned last month, the 10 golf courses managed by Billy Casper Golf for the Forest Preserve District of Cook County were all certified as Audubon Cooperative Sanctuaries. On a further note, Billy Casper Golf has honored several of its superintendents for maintaining golf course conditions at the facilities it manages, and 3 of our own MAGCS members were recipients of the awards. BCG's Utility Man of the Year went to **Jesse Seguin** (Chick Evans Golf Course) and **Roger McDuffa** (Highland Woods Golf Course), and Assistant Superintendent of the Year was awarded to **Jason Wolf** of Highland Woods Golf Course. Congratulations to all of you!

On the fifteenth of this month MAGCS will once again reach out to its members and their families by hosting the Annual Kane County Cougars Family Outing at Elfstrom Field in Geneva. The left field picnic area is where it all happens—food, drinks, kids' games and goodies, fireworks to rival a mid-sized town, and the can't-miss running of the bases after the game (to name only a few of the grand goings-on). If you have kids, or are a kid at heart yourself, this is an event not to be missed. It's cheap, it's fun, and it's the ONLY way you can find out whether your kids are worse-behaved than your peers'. Our generous sponsors (**Burris Equipment Company, Nadler Golf Car Sales, Nels J. Johnson Tree Experts, Inc., Palatine Oil Company, and Turf Professionals Equipment Company**) would love to see a big turnout, so bring out the family and have a blast! Sign-up is available on the magcs.org web site, or call Luke Cella quickly to get on board—630-243-7900.

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On the move: **Jim Reed**, formerly Reed Irrigation Services, is now with Hydrologic in Batavia. Jim's new title is Director of Project Development, and he went on board on June 1st. Best of luck to you, Jim!

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Mike Bavier, CGCS (Inverness Golf Club) has been busy lately. As an Advisory Committee member for Harper College's Plant Science Technology and Park and Golf Maintenance department (coordinated by Joyce K. Grattoni, AIFD), Mike recently attended an important meeting along with MAGCS members **Luke Strojny** (Poplar Creek Country Club), **Ted Fist, CGCS** (Wynstone Golf Club), **Roger McDuffa, Dan Dinelli, CGCS** (North Shore Country Club), and **Gary Schweber, CGCS** (Rolling Green Country Club) whose focus was to breathe new life into the program, bring new students to the industry, and stress the need for more college courses in the irrigation and spray technician areas of study. Completely unrelated, but totally "Mike," this past winter found Mr. Bavier in the rough and tumble

region of Tierra Del Fuego at the southern tip of Argentina visiting the southernmost golf course in the world—Ushuaia Golf Club. Ushuaia is a nine-hole course for now, but has plans to expand to 18 holes (with the help of their highly-prized John Deere tractor complete with endloader and backhoe attachments) in the near future. Superintendent and pro Guillerime German Godoy was Mike's tour guide on this, his latest, adventure to the far reaches of the world's golf venues.



Mike Bavier

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Congratulations to Rosetta and **Dean Styburski** (Western Acres Golf Course) on the birth of their son Vincenzo Giovanni Styburski (a name which covers both of the main sausage groups—Italian and Polish) on May 24th. Baby Vincenzo, the first for Mrs. Styburski, and the fifth for father Dean (joining siblings Christy, Liz, Steve, and Jenny), was a tad earlier than expected, but still weighed in at 6 pounds, 3 ounces, and 18.5 inches long. Everyone is happy and healthy, and we wish the Styburski family all the best!



Vincenzo Giovanni Styburski

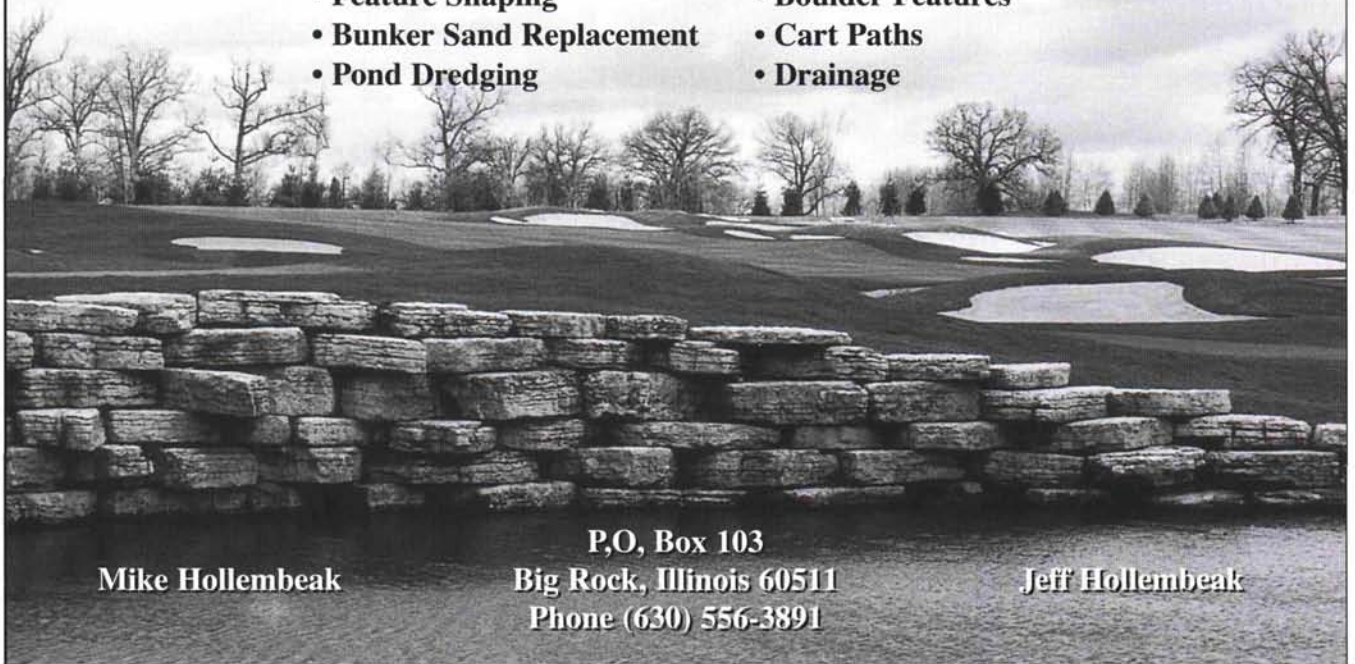
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For the bird enthusiast and mosquito-hater alike, there is an outstanding article by **Scott Witte, CGCS** (Cantigny Golf Club) in the May-June issue of *Stewardship News*, a publication of Audubon International (and, if I may go out on a limb once again, a magazine containing news about stewardship) about his success with attracting purple martins to Cantigny through the help of a passionate volunteer named Ray Field. Success stories like Scott's and Ray's are the fuel that feed life and enthusiasm into the projects that we all would like to find the time to undertake, but somehow rarely are able to follow through on. Congratulations on your new visitors, Scott.

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CLASSIFIEDS

Equipment wanted:

Seeking a valve bank for a Smithco 1995 Super Rake—turn your junk into cash and sell it to **Joel Purpur** at Park Ridge Country Club! Call Joel at 847-823-8682, and be gentle.

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The ITF/MAGCS Spring Golf Day was held on a glorious May 22nd at the historic Midlothian Country Club with **Dave Behrman, CGCS** and **Rob Lewis** hosting. The venue could not have been more impressive—Midlothian has a rich history of tournament golf dating back to its 1898 origins, including hosting the 1914 United States Open Championship. The staff at Midlothian, along with the day's wonderful group of sponsors made it a five-star event from the outset. Upon arriving, guests were treated to a full breakfast before hitting the practice tee to work off the omelets—both courtesy of **BTSI**. The game itself

was a 2-person blind draw, meaning anyone could win (except me), and the golf course was in absolute splendeferectomous condition. Thanks to **Nadler Golf Car Sales**, everyone in the overly large field had a comfortable golf car seat on which to roost in between shots (and there were MANY shots, believe you me). While still trying to digest the humongo breakfast, competitors were treated to a cornucopia of lunch treats on the course, including scrumdiddlyumptious dogs, brats, and liquid refreshments courtesy of **PAF Tree Service** and **Big Head Mulch**. This event owes much of its success to the many tee sponsors—



too numerous to mention here—who provided the extra funds needed to pull it off, and could not even BEGIN to happen without the generosity of its President's Club sponsors: **Bayer Environmental Science, H & E Sod Farms, Nels J. Johnson Tree Experts, Syngenta, and Turf Professionals Equipment Company.** Without the support of all these benevolent folks, a day like this one would not be possible for anywhere NEAR the price of admission we paid. To keep things interesting (as if they weren't already), there were several charity holes throughout the course: **Dr. Derek Settle** of CDGA ran a 4-hole putting contest, raising \$260 on the devilishly tricky putting clock. On the eighth hole, **Sharon Riesenbeck** (Waupaca Sand and Solutions), **Danna Eberly**, and **Jen Bushman** (JW Turf) reined in \$1,090 and on the "Hump Hole" (so named for the interesting street signs within view indicating not speed bumps, but the rarely-seen Speed Humps), **Marsha**

Trayes and **Patti Thorson** grabbed an additional \$855 in charitable donations all in the name of turfgrass research. After all was said and done on the golf course, the group moved inside where a huge variety of food awaited (3 squares at one outing!). While anxiously awaiting the results of the day's competition, the raffles were held, and many lucky MAGCS members walked away with booty, including **Scotty Sholz** (Lohmann Golf Designs) and **Greg Martin** (Martin Design Partnership) as the all-architect-Grey-Goose-gift-basket winners, and **Larry Flament, Brad Legnaioli, Scott Spieden, Mark Gilmour, and Darin Habenicht** winning various vests, golf balls, and whatnot, and **Justin VanLanduit** winning the Cubs tickets donated by Central Sod's **Paul Carlson.** Aside from thanking everyone previously mentioned, I would be remiss if I did not recognize Dr.'s. **Tom Fermanian** and **Tom Voigt** for their participation and photographic assistance throughout the day—this event is

truly a team effort, and the team that showed up on this day was ALL GOOD! Once again, thank you so much to Dave Behrman and everyone at Midlothian Country Club, to all the sponsors of the event, to the countless volunteers behind the scenes, and to the MAGCS members who came and partook of the fine offerings of the day. Supercalifragilisticxpiadocious!



*"Was that what I thought it was?"
"I hope so..."*

"They say never trust one of those things after fifty, you know."

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MAY 30 2006

*Possibly good place to stand the next time a thunderstorm rolls through Phillips Park G.C., Aurora.
Photo courtesy of Todd Schmitz.*

Smooth Transitions (cont'd from page 21)

Though some of us may never leave the place where we currently work, these are good practices to maintain everyday. You never know when an opportunity may come your way. By following these suggestions you will ensure our profession as a whole benefits, as you are able to leave a club or facility in better shape than when you began. The spirit of TETA is to share information, processes and ideas that make our jobs and tasks easier, more efficient, and beneficial.



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