

input with the other two partners can make it easier for the superintendent to maintain the course once it opens. Being involved in the selection of grass type can be rewarding and critical. He stressed the importance of seeking out all available outlets of information on turf types: University Professors, Seed companies, Superintendents, etc and find someone you can trust to help ease the process. He also stated that you need to educate the club officials on details such as green speeds and what is realistic on opening day. Dave highlighted that he likes to leave the details and expertise to the contractor and architect citing "I can grow grass but that's about it". Dave also keyed on starting very early on the permit process so that you do not have delays during the construction phase. Apparently, Dave learned the hard way with Cook County!



Tom Prichard

Tom Prichard, who has had experience both in new construction and a renovation, highlighted how a renovation is a little more complicated than a new construction project for two reasons:

You have to constantly communicate to the existing members not only the progress of the construction process but also try to set their expectations of how the course will look like on reopening day. A course will need time to mature and the condi-

(continued on page 22)

"...renovation is a little more complicated than a new construction project for two reasons..."

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tions will not be the same as they were the day the course closed for the renovation. More importantly, if you are doing a renovation that involves shutting down 9 holes at a time, each section of the renovation will have its own cycle of maturity. Each year a section of the course will reach its intended maturity, appeal and play. The tricky part for the superintendent is to remind the membership of this during each phase of the project.

During a renovation, many times part of the course remains open. You are constantly struggling with daily maintenance procedures with missing key components such as Irrigation. Many times a superintendent has to resort to hand watering tees and greens. Many times a superintendent has to maintain existing tees and "grow in" tees at the same time.



Dan Dinelli

Dan Dinelli keyed in on the importance of communication between the Owner, the Architect, and the Builder. A superintendent should help the builder understand the property by sharing maps locating irrigation and drainage lines and other "surprises" underground. A superintendent can get involved with the location of staging areas so that there is minimal damage to the golf course. You need to identify "hard surfaces" to move the materials in and out, especially during bad weather. Many hours are spent working with the suppliers on the project to ensure timely and coordinated deliveries to fit the construction schedule.

Dan said many times his membership wants the work done in-house. Dan feels that sometimes its best to let a professional builder do

the work; you can save money in the long run because it is done in a timely fashion. Many times the membership expects timely results with the same amount of staff. It just can't be done that efficiently.

Dan also said that using digital photography could be a good tool in creating a visual expectation of what the course will look like during the various phases of the project. He also stated the importance of having a Master Plan for the property. Dan also stated he would like to see the GCBAA publish more "works in progress" information on their website as well as timelines associated with different phases of projects. Dan also expressed his desire to see more information on the environmental issues. Give some thought and information during the planning/construction phase to ensure that there will be efficiencies afforded for ongoing maintenance. Improve the agronomics through design and construction materials so that dividends can be realized for many years. Since the GCBAA has an active committee member, Bill Kubly, of Landscapes Unlimited as the head chair of the Environmental Institute for Golf, this should be no problem in the near future!

What constitutes a Golf Course Builder Member and how do you find them?

Tom Pritchard said that at Ivanhoe the builder was chosen through a bid process. Tom said he asked fellow superintendents about how various builders did on their respective projects and what was the maintenance like after the fact. He also suggested that architects sometimes have preferred builders and you can rely on their opinions as well. The most important part of the builder is their experience level and expertise. "Some architects have renovations out to bid, and others have a short list of contractors they're comfortable with. Superintendents don't really influence the choice of contractor. In this day and age, with player's expectations, I don't see the reason why you would cut corners, because if you do, you'll live with it for many years."

Tom's suggestion to the GCBAA: We need more help and information on the financial

A superintendent should help the builder understand the property by sharing maps locating irrigation and drainage lines and other "surprises" underground.

part...how much did a change order actually cost him?

(I am hoping that we can get a speaker from the GCBAA to come to one of our monthly meetings in the near future.)

Dave also keyed in on that the Construction foreman is the key element for a smooth project. Tim stressed once again, it depends on the technical aspects of the project on the type of contractor you choose. For Tim's case, a major construction company was required due the vastness of his project.

In addition to the Golf Course Superintendents panel, the GCBAA also featured an Architects Panel Discussion that featured three other MAGCS members: Rick Jacobson of Jacobson Golf Course Design, Bob Lohmann of Lohmann Golf Design, and Greg Martin of Martin Design Partnership. Greg Muirhead of Rees Jones, Inc. and current President of the ASGCA also participated. Details of their lively discussion will be featured next month as well.

So, what constitutes a golf course builder and how do you find them? Stay tuned for next month and I explain what the Golf course Builders Association is all about. If you are already starting or contemplating a project and cannot wait, check out the GCBAA's website at www.gcbaa.org to start gathering information now.



Technicians Using Technology

Happy New Year everyone. I hope everyone had a safe and happy holiday. With January comes the serenity and solitude of the shop for us Technicians. In my world the shop is transformed from a maintenance barn full of life and interruptions to a laboratory of solitude and deep thoughts. I love it! While most of the sleeping giants are kept asleep, some are brought out of cold storage. Without being disturbed from their well-deserved hibernation, they are cleaned and gutted down to the bare bone, without feeling any pain. Then and only then are we the Technicians able to visit the crevices and cavities. The hidden areas, where aliens grow, are uncovered. Where scum, rotted grass, slime, grease, dirt, goose excrement, and the ever probable greasy, grimy, gopher guts reside, we begin unraveling the mysteries of the past season's wear. "How dramatic Dad," my daughter would say.

The signature I personally want to leave is the optimum quality of cut and appearance—not roped off areas in fairways that were killed by a faulty after-market hydraulic component.

By this time I've been through the majority of the cutting units and they are sitting with precision under a sheet of plastic with WD40-coated, sharpened blades. Every winter season seems to start differently. It helps to establish a few different priority lists for winter repairs. The weather this past fall certainly changed what got torn down first this year.

When it is time to scope out a machine or a set of like cutting-units, and you have the preliminary list of service parts you know you will need, check prices with competing vendors. Prices do change every year. Some will go down just to draw your attention to other parts on the same page that probably went up.

In most cases, for the major brands, I have sometimes found original manufacturer's replacement parts are equal or even lower in price than after-market parts. Plus, free shipping incentives are usually in place. The will-fit vendors are worthy of your attention also. Take the time to be inquisitive with the after-market supplier. Find out how close or exact the matching part truly is. By what standards and where (off shore?) did the manufacturing take place is important. Pay the most attention to the critical components and parts that you do not want to take shortcuts with. Granted, a big part of the Technician's job is to spend wisely and save the company money. See if the vendor will send you a sample part. Then compare to the OEM replacement part. Remember, your signature is on every service and repair you perform. The signature I personally want to leave is the optimum quality of cut and appearance—not roped off areas in fairways that were killed by a faulty after-market hydraulic component.

For those of us without access to the internet or lacking a computer at the office/shop, here is some ammunition for the cause of getting one. After attending the IPTC a few weeks back, I was stopped and pulled aside by a few presenters. The latest technology was on hand at a few major manufacturer's booths. After seeing what is available through the manufacturer's on-line site, many services can be obtained easily via the internet. Continuous service bulletins and updates on equipment are very important. Parts break-downs, which include any changes and superseded numbers that the Technician needs to know

(continued on page 24)

about, are not passed on without access to a computer. Many times when a part is ordered, it arrives and appears to differ from the original. Without knowing about a running change or bulletin on a part, we are often left standing with a machine down and a further delay. Without a computer you can only call the parts line and hope to talk to someone fast about your predicament. The "luxury" of ordering parts on-line is now a necessity. With some major companies it will save our golf courses money.

Although the more traditional fax-line is still important for ordering lengthy parts lists, it too can be inconvenient and futile if you are faxing old part-numbers. So along with the convenience of a computer comes savings both in the parts budgets and in the technician's efficiency. If the upfront cost of the computer is still considered prohibitive, here is some more ammo for your argument.

With a computer, it's now possible for the Technician to carry the trouble-shooting materials to the machine. The information in many cases is available on CD and can be accessed easily with a laptop. The laptop can be right next to the technician at the piece of equipment he/she is working on. One major manufacturer, for example, has a CD with working flow-schematics that show the entire electrical systems of all of the equipment they produce. This is also available on-line. Technical repair manuals are quickly becoming harder to get. The paper manuals that used to come with new equipment are extinct. All the information for today's and tomorrow's equipment is at our finger tips. With a very small investment on the golf course's part, the grateful Technician will produce time and money saving results.

*All the information
for today's
and tomorrow's
equipment is at
our finger tips.*

In closing: Next to the computerized spin grinder, bed knife grinder, spray rig, and the on-board diagnostic systems on equipment, a laptop right there next to the technician is a necessity.

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the Bull Sheet

John Gurke, CGCS, Associate Editor

DATES TO REMEMBER

January 10 – MAGCS Chapter-Administered GCSAA seminar at the Midwest Golf House in Lemont, IL. Dr. Fred Yelverton will present “Advanced Weed Management,” and not “Taking Control of Your Grassy Weeds” as previously and erroneously but innocently and agendalessly reported.

January 17 – 19 – The Mid-America Horticultural Trade Show at the Lakeside Center at McCormick Place in Chicago, IL.

January 23 – MAGCS monthly meeting at Rich Harvest Links in Sugar Grove, IL. **Scott Resetch, Jason Funderburg, and Jeff Vercautren** are hosts.

January 23 – 24 – The Southern Illinois Grounds Maintenance School & Trade Show at the Gateway Convention Center in Collinsville, IL.

January 26 – Deadline for qualified applicants to register to take the certification exam at the GCSAA

Education Conference in Anaheim, CA. Go to gcsaa.org and click on a bunch of buttons to see if you qualify. If you still can't figure it out, you probably shouldn't worry about taking the exam.

February 8 – Annual Assistants Winter Workshop at Midwest Golf House in Lemont, IL.

February 19 – 24 – GCSAA Education Conference in conjunction with the Golf Industry Show in Anaheim, CA.

February 22 – MAGCS Hospitality Suite at the Hilton Anaheim (GCSAA Headquarter hotel) from 6:00 pm til 10:00 pm.

March 13 – MAGCS Chapter-Administered GCSAA education seminar at Midwest Golf House (still in Lemont, IL). Dr. Derek Settle, CDGA and Dr. Bingru Huang, Rutgers University. The topic will be managing the newer bentgrass cultivars.

Be sure to attend the January 23rd MAGCS monthly meeting at Rich Harvest Links. Not only is this a first-ever venue for MAGCS, but our education topic is one that will truly be of interest to everyone in our industry faced with the decision to purchase or lease their golf course maintenance equipment. Mr. Todd Gray of Wells Fargo will discuss the benefits of equipment leasing through a bank, as opposed to through the equipment manufacturers. See you there.

You might also want to check out the “Mid-Am” on January 17 through 19 at McCormick Place. This thing has hundreds of exhibits, educational

offerings, demonstrations, as well as the new Innovation Showcase, just to name a few. Go to www.midam.org to register or learn more.

Also on the winter education docket is the Southern Illinois Grounds Maintenance School & Trade Show in Collinsville, IL (just outside St. Louis). This is the 25th anniversary of the show, hosted by the University of Illinois Extension, Southern Illinois Nursery Association, Southern Illinois Golf Course Superintendents Association, Southern Illinois Grounds Maintenance Association, and the Illinois Parks and Recreation Association. Numerous industry luminaries will be on hand to share

their expertise on a wide variety of topics. Recognized names like David Marquardt, Paul Vermeulen, Bruce Branham, Ken Diesburg, Phil Nixon, Dave Williams, and Jim Schuster will join the likes of Messrs. Macho, Darke, and Shadow (I did not make these up) in this education-packed 2-day extravaganza. Go to www.extension.uiuc.edu/madisonstclair to register.

Oh yes, and another annual fixture on our education calendars will be held at Golf House on February 8th. The Assistants Winter Workshop will feature Mr. Jim McLoughlin and his “Strategic Career Planning” presentation. This event is not limited to assistants, and attendance by all classes of MAGCS members is both welcomed and encouraged.

Congratulations to Sara and **Keith Krause** (Reinders, Inc.) on the recent newcomer to their family. Lucille Ann Krause was born on Wednesday, November 29 (during the IPTC where an extremely lucky **Sam Wineinger** guessed the time of birth to within 3 minutes). Little Lucy was a healthy 8 lbs., 5 ozs., and 21 inches long, and is already growing into a fine young lady who lets her dad go out and play hockey when the ice is good like a good little girl should. Mom and dad and Lucy are all doing great!



Sara, Keith and new born Lucille Ann Krause.

‘Twas the season once again—the season for our traditional regional

(continued on page 28)



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sensational unbeatable parties, and this past December did not disappoint. Kicking the season off was the annual South Side Superintendents Celebration at Chef Klaus' Bier Stube in Frankfort, IL on the 4th. The traditional German meal of tubular meats (and meat byproducts) was served family-style with a painter's palette of colorful side dishes, and the cozy bar room offered a great chance for MAGCS members to get intimate with each other (cew!) and ring in the holiday season. Thanks once again to **Ed Esgar** and **Keith Peterson** for their tireless work in arranging the party and manning the registration table—another great job, guys!



*The men who put it all together—
Ed Esgar and Keith Peterson*



*The 2 hardest working Germans on
the south side—Ray Schmitz and
the bartender at Chef Klaus's*

Just a week later found MAGCS members converging on Dave & Buster's in Addison, IL for the annual West Side Holiday Party. Around 90 folks from all walks of MAGCS life attended, enjoying refreshments and an Italian buffet lunch followed by billiards, shuffle board, and a huge variety of arcade games. **Gary Hearn** and **Don Ferreri** were the men who saw to it that all was well (as they do every year), and another

job well done it certainly was. Thank you to everyone involved in making both of these holiday events so successful!



Gary Hearn and Don Ferreri

You may have noticed a new addition to your incoming mail list that you'll want to open—the Chicago District Golf Association has sent out its "State of the Game" bi-yearly electronic newsletter intended to provide pertinent information to individuals holding administrative positions at golf facilities this past December. Presented by CDGA, Illinois PGA, IJGA, and MAGCS, it highlights industry news from around our area in the past year. Check your spam filter and let this one through—there's something for everyone at your facility. Okay, maybe not for the janitor. Or the hostess. Or valet.

Industry Notes and News:

- In an effort to gain entry into the golf market, Ariens has acquired National Mower Company.
- Great Lakes Golf Course Products has changed its name to the Prestwick Golf Group.
- And finally, FMC Specialty Products Business has changed its name to FMC Professional Solutions.
- This all really happened.

As most all of us are already aware, the minimum wage in the state of Illinois will increase to \$7.50 per hour in July of 2007 from its current \$6.50 per hour. This legislation calls for subsequent increases in future years to eventually bring the state's minimum wage to \$8.25 per hour by 2010, potentially the highest in the country.

Another change for 2007 is the extending of daylight-saving time for another month. Under the new configuration, we will be springing forward 3 weeks earlier (on the second Sunday in March), and falling back a month later (on the first Sunday in November). The legislation, passed in 2005, is an attempt to conserve energy, but has strong opposition that claims any savings in electricity will be countered with increased gasoline usage. We shall see...

While we experience our usual fickle midwest winter with its ups, downs, and assorted extremes, here's what Bruce Williams, CGCS (Los Angeles CC) has to say about the weather: "I love the changing of the seasons ...but it is better to watch it on TV. I can drive 2 hours and ski, can play golf 365 days a year, and swim in the ocean about 9 months of the year, and all that with only 4 days in the 90's typically and about 4 days of frost! Yes, it is crowded here but the weather is unbeatable." Yeah, but can you play ice hockey on your water hazards? I thought not...

The USGA seeks your help. You may not have known it, but USGA has a library in which it maintains a collection of complete runs of most every major golf magazine, including those from foreign countries. Some of these collections are missing various issues, and the collection of programs from the many PGA and LPGA Tour events is also incomplete. Anyone with magazines and/or programs that they are willing to donate can call Doug Stark at (908) 234-2300 or e-mail him at dstark@usga.org. Donators can claim a tax deduction for the full value of any items donated to the USGA, a not-for-profit 501(C)3.

Our most envious congratulations to **Tim Kelly** of the Village Links of Glen Ellen on his recent retirement from his position as golf course superintendent. Tim, who served as this organization's president in 1993, and as golf course superintendent at Village Links for an

(continued on page 30)

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astounding 32 years (39 total years at the course) made it official on December 29th. Tim has been an instrumental force in the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Golf Courses in our area, and the recipient of numerous environmental awards for his efforts both on the course and in the community. We wish Tim Kelly the best of luck in whatever adventures his future may hold, and we thank him for his years of service and dedication to MAGCS. Congratulations, Tim!

.....
Making it a real family affair, **Pat Kelly**, the long-time equipment technician at Village Links has decided to move on to greener pastures as well. Although not quite retirement-ready, Pat will be exchanging his wrench for a nail gun in order to pursue his home remodeling business full-time. Good luck to you, Pat!

.....
Growing Solutions would like to congratulate **Nick Baker** of Riverside Golf Club as the 2007 pHirst Water Amendment early order program raffle winner, held at IPTC in November.

.....
Speaking of IPTC, congratulations to the folks at Illinois Turfgrass Foundation and all of the people who took part in presenting another fabulous event on November 28 through 30 in St. Charles. Over 800 registrants (not including the many vendors and educational presenters) could be found walking the trade show floor and taking in any of the countless educational presentations offered. The highlight of the event was the presentation of the ITF's Distinguished Service Award to **Dr. Randy Kane** on Wednesday afternoon in Chicagoland Turf's hospitality room. Several of Randy's old cohorts took the podium to wax nostalgic (they basically roasted him), bringing up fond memories of pythium outbreaks, dollar spot trials, and fairy ring diagnoses. Once the likes of **Hank Wilkinson, Brian Winkel, and Carl Hopphan** were finished with their touching tributes, the doc took the mic and, in his usual unassuming way (by sadly having to Google "acceptance

speeches", he reluctantly admitted), thanked everyone for the honor of having his name on our "Stanley Cup." To the sponsors, the vendors, the attendees, the hard-working people who worked behind the scenes, and the Rabines (you know why) we thank you and congratulate you on a great event.



Dr. Randy Kane, winner of the Illinois Turfgrass Foundation's Distinguished Service Award.

.....
Okay, so you're going in for that BIG interview, right? You might want to check www.CareerBuilder.com to ensure that you are fully prepared. Among the strangest mistakes people make in interviewing listed on the site are items such as: Don't get so nervous that you look like you're going to get sick; don't resort to "liquid courage" before the interview, and don't bring your mother, father, wife, dog, or anyone else with you to an interview. Who'da thunk it?

.....
The Annual MAGCS Fall Dinner Dance was held on the 18th of November at Ruth Lake Country Club. Dan and Bridget Marco were our hosts for this fantastic evening out. The food was fabulous and abundant, the room was a perfect fit, and the lip-syncing DJ provided entertainment beyond spinning digital files. Thanks to our fine sponsors who make the event unique and affordable to all. As always, thanks to Nadler Golf Car Sales for sponsoring the beverages, TPEC for the music (and entertainment), Bayer Environmental Science, Chicagoland Turf, J.W. Turf for the Hors d'Oeuvres, and Reinder's for the flowers for the women folk. What a great night.



Amy Feltz and Pat Maksymiu



Peggy Adducci & Mike Mumper, Susan & John Jennings.



Brian and Dana Baker



Harry and Judy Lovero



Kerry Anderson & Jill Obermoeller