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Jeff and Jason's Christmas bonus was on display in the lobby.



Todd Schmitz and Parin Schmidt (no relation)



Brian Christopher and Jake Mendoza, Assistants at Rich Harvest, greet MAGCS members.



MAGCS members enjoy a tour of the fine cars at the completion of lunch.

Congratulations to **Bob Maibusch, CGCS, MG** and **Fred Behnke, CGCS** on receiving their prestigious and coveted MAGCS 25-year pins (and thank you for 25 years of dues).



Fred Behnke and Bob Maibusch

Also congrats to **Nick Baker**, winner of a trip to Hawaii compliments of Growing Solutions and its early order purchase program raffle. Nick, wife Kara, and son Colin enjoyed a week on the islands where the surf was up even if the sun wasn't. Hey, I'll take a cloudy Hawaii over a sunny Illinois in January ANY day...



Nick, wife Kara, and son Colin

Another annual January event took place in ... take your best guess ... January! Give yourself a star. The Chicagoland Association of Golf Course Superintendents (CAGCS) held its very popular Winter Shop Tour on the 25th, visiting the maintenance facilities of Riverside Golf Club (Nick Baker), Hinsdale Golf Club (Bob Maibusch), and Ruth Lake Country Club (**Dan Marco, CGCS**). It was, as it always is, a great way to get out of one's own work environs with one's assistant and technician (and whoever else one deemed worthy of a day away from work) and see what the other guys have. A big thank you to the 3 hosts and to all responsible for arranging the day.

The MAGCS expresses its' sincere condolences to Mark Kowaliczko and his family on the loss of Mark's mother last month. Please keep Mark and his family in your thoughts during this difficult time.

In case you were wondering whether you won the contest to name the newest course at St. Andrews, you didn't (unless your name is Edwin Burtnett). For only the 7th time in over 600 years, a new course at the Home of Golf has been given a name through a naming competition that attracted more than 4,000 entries. The Castle Course, designed by David McLay Kidd will open officially next spring. The cliff-top layout will be a par-71, with 5 sets of tees ranging from 5,600 to 7,200 yards, and will be public like the other 6 St. Andrews Links courses.

Nice job by Class C Advisory Committee Chair **John Ekstrom** in the January 2007 issue of *Golf Course News*. John's mug and article on "Becoming More Involved" appears in full splendor (and complete with the lovely MAGCS logo) on page 10. Take a look—it is a great example of how advanced and forward-thinking the Midwest association is in comparison to other chapters.

And then there were...another merger in the golf course market: **Deere & Co.** is buying **LESCO Inc.**, the Cleveland-based supplier of fertilizer, seed and chemicals for lawn and golf course maintenance. Deere will pay \$135 million, or \$14.50 per share, for LESCO, which will become part of its John Deere Landscapes, doubling the number of its stores by adding 332 LESCO locations. The price is a \$4 premium over LESCO's closing stock price on Friday (February 16). With approval by both LESCO shareholders and regulators, the deal is expected to close in June.

20 years ago this month in Bull Sheet (for those of you who don't remember, this magazine was called Bull Sheet from 1948 until 1996): Olympia Fields Country Club superintendent **Brian Chalifoux** (currently

(continued on page 24)





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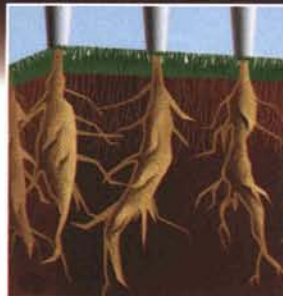
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at Fort Wayne CC in Indiana) did a Director's Column on the bentgrass conversion programs at OFCC. Using Penncross on the greens, Brian noted that failures were experienced only in areas of dense shade. Thinning turf, algae, and poor rooting were symptoms caused by excessive shade, and these problems were exacerbated by the ultra-low cutting height of 9/64". Also in the March issue, a young assistant superintendent at Poplar Creek Country Club (**Dave Blomquist**) wrote of their irrigation system modernization that they underwent the previous spring. The renovation brought Toro 690 heads to the fairways, 650's to greens and tees, brand new Toro VT-4 satellites, and an IBM personal computer to run the system (probably one of the first of its kind in 1986). Midwest Irrigation did the work for a total cost of \$163,000.

.....

15 years ago this month in Bull Sheet Director **Ed Brauns** wrote an article about the "yo-yo winter" of temperature fluctuations and a peculiar weather trait called "El Nino." Meanwhile, in the Midwest Breezes section (similar to Bull Sheet now), **Fred Opperman** was strong-arming MAGCS members to send in stories and photos of their winter golf, ski, and snowmobile trips. God help me—I've become Fred Opperman!

.....

10 years ago this month Bull Sheet reported that Bruce Williams, CGCS of Bob O'Link Golf Club had accepted the position of Golf Course Superintendent at the Los Angeles Country Club effective April 1. I guess that worked out okay for Bruce, huh?

.....



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.....

For Sale: John Deere Sprayer \$5000 OBO; 1991 Toro 223-D fairway mower, 2800 hrs, all winter maint. Complete - \$5000; Roseman 5-gang hydraulic verticut unit....complete or for parts. Call Brian 847-295-0288.

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Help Wanted: Full time golf course mechanic position available with benefits. Call John C. Kuehne at Bittersweet Golf Club at 847-855-9569.

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# Architects and Certified Builders: You Just Can't "Grow in" Without Them

*As I described in Part 1 of my article (On Course, Jan 2007), The GCBA held its annual summer meeting in Chicago and I was fortunate enough to attend this information packed event. The GCBA prides itself on being involved with 13 Allied Associations of Golf. Here are some of the various Associations' perspectives given at the meeting:*

## ASGCA

Mr. Chad Ritterhouse, the Executive Secretary, reported:

- The ASBCA offers the following publications to assist you in your next project:
- Golf Course Development Planning Guide (Free)
- Printed Membership List (Free)
- The Golf Course Remodeling Process: Questions & Answers (Free)
- Request For Proposal (Free)
- Selecting Your Golf Course Architect (Free)
- Career in Golf Course Architecture (Free)

Please go to [www.asgca.org](http://www.asgca.org) for more information.

## NGCOA

Henry Delozier, President, and Mike Tinkey, Deputy CEO of the National Golf Course Owners Association, described their organization. They suggested that NAHB's (National Association of Home Builders) website is a great place to find out what is coming down the pipeline. They also work closely with NGF and were a founding partner of Golf 20/20. These organizations report that it is the 40 plus to 60-year-old market that should be targeted. Quite simply: **The Boomers are coming and they're coming to play golf!**

If you want more information, please go to [www.golf2020.com](http://www.golf2020.com).

## GSCAA

Steve Mona reported that the GCSAA and GCBA would continue their collaborative efforts with a "Building of a Bunker Solution Center" at the 2007 GIS. These live demonstrations encourage a better understanding for both parties. I am sure you will agree, bunkers are filled with some pretty incredible stuff!

Mona credited Bill Kubly, CEO of Landscapes Unlimited, for spearheading the efforts of the Environmental Institute for Golf (EIFG). The EIFG is the philanthropic arm of the GCSAA combining efforts of the environmental and golf communities. Mona said the No. 1 issue facing the GCSAA is the environment. We need to show the government how golf courses are good for the environment by collecting with factual data. This data collection process is now formalized and will focus on five areas:

- Water Management
- Integrated Plant Management
- Wildlife and Habitat Management
- Golf Course Site, Design and Construction
- Energy and Waste Management

For more on The Institute, visit [www.eifg.org](http://www.eifg.org).

As a sidebar, the surveys from the GCSAA on environmental issues are extremely important for capturing the needed baseline data. Please participate in these surveys.

## LPGA

Ms. Kelly Hyne, Director of Tournament Business Affairs, showed a great film on the LPGA, a 54-year-old organization. The LPGA was founded by a group of 13 women, including **Babe Didrikson Zaharias**. The association held 33 events in 2006. Unfortunately, the Americans won only seven of them. Not only has it grown nationally, but the LPGA is now international in scope. Did you know that the average drive is 275 yards for the LPGA player? (I'm pretty sure I can drive the cart that far, what is the big deal?)

The LPGA is becoming increasingly visible. Next year they will be playing at St. Andrews for the first time ever. They will play Pebble Beach in 2010. The Solheim cup will play at Rich Harvest Farms in 2009. The LPGA prides itself on working closely with the Superintendents to set up the course. Jeff and Jason let us know if this is true!

To learn more about women golfers go to [www.lpga.com](http://www.lpga.com).

## USGA

Our own Paul Vermeulen, of the USGA, stated the obvious: expectations have never been higher. Paul said his experience with over 50 clubs is solid proof that the USGA guidelines work for constructing greens. He stressed that all of us should enthusiastically promote the project. We spend too much time and effort trying to save money up front, rather than building it the right the first time. If it's too costly to build a green correctly, it will be far more costly to build it incorrectly.

Paul said that focus is needed on bunkers now. Superintendents are reporting that bunkers have surpassed greens as the largest component of the maintenance budget. He stated that there need to be better evaluation

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techniques to qualify sand. I really don't see a need for this. Just ask me where you should get your bunker sand! To learn more about Paul...just watch him as the new Director of Agronomy for the PGA Tour.

The seminar also featured an Architects Panel Discussion with our own MAGCS members: Bob Lohmann, Rick Jacobsen, and Greg Martin. Greg Muirhead, ASGCA President and an architect with Rees Jones, also presided. All four of these men are ASGCA members. To become a member, you must meet very stringent guidelines in a several year process.

**Average age of this year's applicant: 46. Average years of experience: 25. Average expectation: Priceless.**

Greg Martin said he knows an architect strives for three components in any given project:

- For it to be done on time.
- For the project to be done exquisitely.
- For it to be done within budget.

However, if you want to be realistic pick any two!

Bob Lohmann asks builders how long it will take for the construction so that he can relay that information back to the owner. He also appreciates a new breed of expert: the "Grow In" Superintendent. "Been there done that" expertise is priceless.

Rick Jacobsen stressed that the architect and builder have a long-term relationship that needs to be maintained. It's tricky, and yeah, it takes a lot of patience and work, but it is far more rewarding than the "one

time" shot with an owner. (O.K, maybe those weren't his exact words, but that is how I remember it!)

All agreed it is difficult to get the owner to "let go" after the project is complete. With a punch list in hand, the final walk through should involve the Certified Builder, Architect, and Owner. When is the project officially completed for the architect? Rick Jacobsen said when the architect says, "grass it."

So, with all this talk about Certified Builders, what exactly constitutes a Certified Builder?

In 1992, the GCBA Board established and implemented the Professional Certification Program for Builder Members. To be eligible for certification, a company must meet the following requirements:

- Have been in the golf course construction business for at least five years (under the current company name).
- Have completed construction of the equivalent of 18 holes of golf per year for each of the past five years under the direction of a golf course architect.
- Provide references from individuals in five of the following seven categories:
  - a) Owner/developer
  - b) Golf course architect
  - c) Engineer
  - d) Irrigation designer
  - e) Golf course superintendent
  - f) Municipality
  - g) GCBA Certified Golf Course Builder.

- Provide references from a financial institution, credit agency, insurance company, and bonding company.
- Pass the written Certification Exam, which is offered annually at the Golf Industry Show.
- Attend at least one GCBA educational session per year.
- Consistently engage in ethical business practices.

At the conference, there was some dialogue about starting a new class of membership: a renovation specialist. I am sure you will all agree that new courses in the Chicagoland area will be few and far between. Renovations are on the rise as each course competes for survival and profitability. As discussed in part one of this article, there is a certain level of experience and expertise that is required during a renovation, especially if the decision is made to keep the course partially open. This renovation specialist should be subject to the same degree of scrutiny, just not the volume of business, that is required to become a Certified Builder.

As we all know, the Golf Course Superintendent is continually faced with the pressures of providing a "perfect golf environment." Why not stretch your odds and pick an ASGCA Certified Architect and GCBA Certified Builder to better your odds?



Invited MAGCS members (L-R): Tim Anderson of Naperville CC, Tom Prichard of Ivanhoe CC, Dave Ward of Coyote Run and Dan Dinelli of North Shore CC.





# It's a Full House at the Midwest Golf House

*Around 1998, after nearly 20 years of residency in Oak Brook, the Chicago District Golf Association was beginning to look for a new home. It was during a meeting between CDGA personnel, Frank Jemsek and Nick Mokelke of Cog Hill, that the seeds were planted for the Midwest Golf House. After a \$1.4 million land donation by the Jemsek family (owners of Cog Hill), planning and fundraising for the 22,000 square foot facility began. Throughout the duration of the project, a fund of nearly \$5 million was raised by the CDGA Foundation in a campaign dubbed "Sunshine Through Golf" (which later became the Foundation's moniker). The Midwest Golf House opened for operation on April 16, 2001.*

But what goes on there? Who all resides in the Midwest Golf House? Did you know that there are almost thirteen organizations that have offices there? But who are they? Where are they – upstairs? downstairs? Who runs them? What do they do? I have grouped these organizations to help answer some potential questions and to try and clear up any confusion.

## **Chicago District Golf Association**

Robert Markionni, Executive Director, and the CDGA staff are located on the first floor.

Most everyone knows who the CDGA is, but if you don't, it's a non-profit association of member clubs and individual golfers in Illinois and parts of Indiana, Wisconsin, and Michigan. The CDGA has five different programs that assist their members. Among them is the Turfgrass Research Program which is directed by Dr.

Derek Settle. This is the program that conducts and provides research to member clubs in order to assist superintendents with maintaining and improving the health of their golf turf.

The Turfgrass Program is broken up into two areas Pest Diagnostics/Consulting and IPM on the web. On the web is Interactive Turf ([interactiveturf.com](http://interactiveturf.com)), which is a fee-based program consisting of five sections: pest bulletins, historical database, pest alerts, a pest newsletter, and sponsored research.

## **Sunshine Through Golf Foundation**

Brittany Ottolini, Manager of Foundation Operations.

The Sunshine Through Golf Foundation, which is part of the CDGA, brings the benefits and resources of

*(continued on page 28)*



the game of golf into the lives of beginners, juniors, individuals with disabilities, minorities and the economically disadvantaged throughout the areas served by the CDGA.

*Christopher Painter* is the Golf Course Superintendent for the three hole, par 3 Sunshine course. The golf course was designed by Joe T. Jemsek and built by Wadsworth in May of 2002. It plays from 450 yards for parents to just 200 yards for kids. Along with the three golf holes, it features both a chipping and putting green, and test plots for the Turfgrass Research Program.

### **Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents**

*Luke Cella*, Executive Director, is located on the second floor in the recently expanded back half of the Midwest Golf House.

The MAGCS is a 501(c)(6) professional trade association. And as a refresher, the it exists to provide networking, education and career advancement opportunities to those who facilitate the growth and enjoyment of golf.

### **Illinois Turfgrass Foundation and Illinois Turfgrass Endowment**

*Luke Cella*, Executive Director

The Illinois Turfgrass Foundation (ITF) is committed to funding turf research and education in Illinois. It is a registered 501(c)(5) not-for-profit professional trade association and is also the sole sponsorship of the Illinois Professional Turf Conference and trade show. The Illinois Turfgrass Endowment (ITE) is the fundraising arm of the ITF and designated by the IRS as a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit group. The ITE focus on funding turfgrass research well into our future.

### **Midwest Sod Council/Sod Growers Association of Mid-America**

*Rusty Stachelwitz*, Executive Director/Executive Secretary, is also located in the newly added second floor offices.

The Midwest Sod Council is a group of sod farms that contribute to a group promotion program. It is very similar to the beef or dairy councils that are behind slogans such as "Beef its what's for dinner" or "Got Milk?" Rusty is working to expand and promote the fact that turf is great and sod is the quickest way to a full stand.

The Sod Growers Association of Mid-America is a trade organization for sod farms located in Illinois and Indiana.

### **Illinois Junior Golf Association**

*Carrie Holub* is the newly appointed Executive Director as of January 17, 2007. She and all IJGA staff are located on the second floor.

IJGA is a registered 501(c)(3) not-for-profit junior golf association that provides playing opportunities, educational clinics, and events for its membership. Any person from age 7 through 18 is eligible for a membership.

### **American Junior Golf Association**

*Lee Pinchouck*, Vice President/ Midwest Regional Director, is located on the second floor within the IJGA office suite.

The AJGA is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization dedicated to the overall growth and development of young men and women who aspire to earn college golf scholarships through competitive junior golf.

### **The First Tee**

*Mark Lowry*, Senior Director of Chapter Management, is located on the first floor.

The First Tee's mission is to impact the lives of young people by providing learning facilities and educational programs that promote character development and life-enhancing values through the game of golf. As Senior Director of Chapter Management, Mark is responsible for facilitating several Chapter based programs.

### **University of Illinois Extension**

*Greg Stack* and *Richard Hentschel*, Educators and Extension Specialists, located in the newly added second floor offices.

The Extension provides updates for professional horticulturists through grounds maintenance clinics, professional growers meetings, and pesticide clinics. The Extension also works closely with professional associations by providing expertise on programs the associations organize. Consultation services are offered to assist growers and horticulture maintenance professionals with pest identification and management, culture, and plant selection.

### **United States Golf Association**

*Scott Hoyde* is the Manager of Course Rating and Handicap Education for the USGA. He has worked for the USGA since 2000 and has recently moved his operations to the second floor of the Midwest Golf House in August of 2006. His main responsibility is to develop educational materials on both the USGA Course Rating System and USGA Handicap System. These materials help supplement Handicapping seminars he conducts around the country to help clubs meet certification requirements and further educate club representatives. In addition, Scott also conducts Course Rating seminars to train current and potential course raters from authorized golf associations. He also conducts research to help support any changes to the Course Rating or Handicap System. His most recent projects is to develop USGA Course Rating Software and provide technical support for users.

I hope this article organized all the different associations that are currently based out of the Midwest Golf House. Next time that you are at the Midwest Golf House, take a look around and notice how nice a facility it is, and to see if there are any new associations housed there. The CDGA has open their doors and truly created the Midwest Golf House.





# Who Are These Guys?

*The distinguished gentleman on the left in the Ward Cleaver suit is Ray Gerber. The younger fellow on the right sporting the Mike Brady look is Fred Opperman (in a rare photograph taken before the hair on his head migrated southward to his chin). As the years go by and we all get wiser, we tend to become more forgetful. We forget people's names; we forget where we put our keys (which are usually in our hands); or our sunglasses (which are usually on our heads); we forget lots of things. These, though are trivial items that can be found with very little effort. However, history and knowledge of the past—in this case the story of the magazine you are reading right now—can often times be forgotten and lost forever as time goes by. Sure, you may hear the names and possibly even recall the faces, but with each generation that succeeds us, the knowledge of our past gets murkier. For this reason I would like to tell you a little history about On Course magazine and the people who played an integral part in its existence. Some of you were around when this story started, but a good many of you were not. It is for all of you that we present this little look into our past, because, in the words of the Faber College motto, "Knowledge is Good."*



Ray Gerber and Fred Opperman in 1971



1948

Our association goes all the way back to 1926 when John MacGregor, the greenkeeper of Chicago Golf Club, was asked by National Association of Greenkeepers of America founder, Colonel John Morley, to convene the greenkeepers in our area with the ultimate purpose of forming the Mid-West Greenkeepers Association (MWGA). There were 16 charter members when it became official on December 24, 1926. A much more in-depth look at the history of MAGCS and our profession can be found in the April through December, 2001 issues of *On Course*. The magazine, however, was not a part of that history for many years to come.

Around 20 years later, the MAGCS Board of Directors—namely President Don Strand and Paul Burdett—decided it was high time to provide the membership with a monthly newsletter. In January of 1948, the premiere issue of *Bull Sheet* was sent out. The name was conceived by Robert Williams, then of Beverly Country Club, who remembered his army company's newsletter at Fort Campbell, Kentucky, where he was stationed after World War II, was called *The Bull Sheet*. The maiden issue of our *Bull Sheet* was a two-page mimeo-

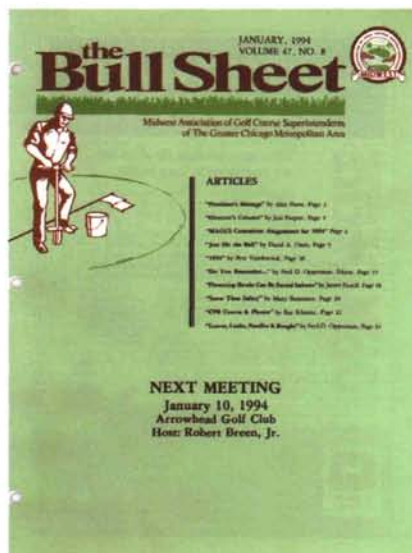
(continued on page 30)



graphed publication done completely in-house, with editor Norm Johnson and associate editors William Stuppel, Raymond Gerber, John Coghill, Raymond Didier, and Bob Williams responsible for its writing, printing, and mailing. Providing the hand-drawn artwork for each issue was Paul Burdett.

By 1950, *Bull Sheet* had grown enough in size and circulation to warrant its being printed and distributed professionally. Ever-Redi Printing of LaGrange was chosen, and the new format with glossy paper and black-and-white photography was unveiled. Incidentally, Ever-Redi remained our printer from then until January of 1995, making MAGCS its longest-running customer at 45 years. *Bull Sheet* remained much the same from 1950 through June of 1985 (with the exception of 1976 when a 50th Anniversary logo appeared on its covers), when a major format change saw the old Bull logo being replaced by the "Cup Cutter Guy." This was done to highlight the uniqueness of the golf course superintendent's pro-

fession, where the changing of cups was considered the one unique thing we in our industry do. At that time, the cover went from white to a light green (Seafoam perhaps?) to stress the nature of our business—green-keeping.



It was during this version of *Bull Sheet*—from February of 1972

through July of 1983—that Ray Gerber was its editor. Ray's biography reads like "How the West Was Won." He was born on September 4, 1899, and in 1916, at the tender age of 16, he drove cattle herds from North Dakota to Missouri on horseback. He began his storied career in golf in 1925 when he worked construction on the new Woodhill Country Club in Wayzata, Minnesota. During the winter he cut blocks of ice out of local lakes to be packed in sawdust and stored in sheds for use in the summer (if any of it made it to Wheaton, it was probably delivered by Red Grange). It was in Wayzata that Ray's aptitude for maintaining reel-type mowers was honed, eventually getting him noticed by the Toro Company in Minneapolis. From there Ray went to a new course in New Jersey called Pine Valley in 1926 to work for the Toro Company setting up and maintaining their new mowers. A year later, his new wife unhappy with life out East, Ray and Julia moved to Chicago to work for J. Oliver Johnson, a Toro distributor



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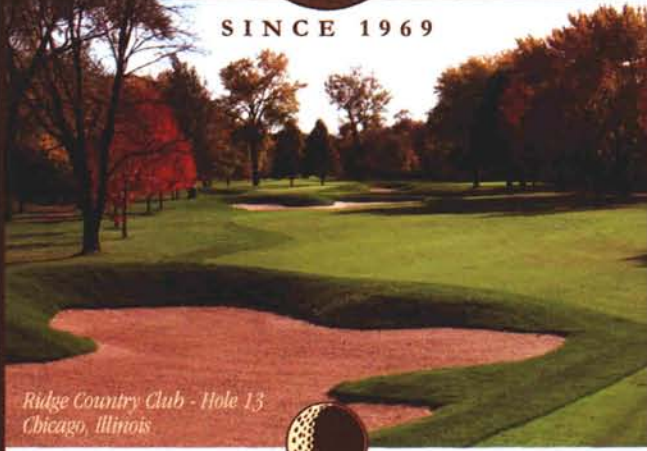
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