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## THE BULL SHEET

John Gurke, CGCS, Associate Editor



# September 2007

### DATES TO REMEMBER

September 3 – 9 – PGA Tour's new FedExCup Series event—the BMW Championship—at Cog Hill Country Club in Lemont, IL, **Ken Lapp** host.

September 12 – 2007 University of Illinois Golf Turf Field Day at the Landscape Horticulture Research Center on South Lincoln Avenue in Urbana, IL.

September 17 – MAGCS monthly meeting and annual Golf Championship at Stonewall Orchard Golf Club in Grayslake, IL, **Larry Flament** host.

September 24 – Annual Wee One Foundation Golf Outing at Pine Hills Country Club in Sheboygan, WI, Rod Johnson, CGCS host.

October 1 – Rutgers University Professional Golf Turf Management School's 2-Year Certificate Program at Rutgers University in New Brunswick, NJ.

October 2 – MAGCS/ITF Fall Golf Day and College Championship at Prairie Bluff Golf Club in Lockport, IL, **Ken Shepherd** host.

October 2 – Member registration opens for the 2008 GCSAA Education Conference and Golf Industry Show in Orlando, FL from January 28 through February 2. Do it before heading to Prairie Bluff.

October 15 – Deadline for nominations for GCSAA's 2008 Excellence in Government Relations Awards.

November 7 – 55th Annual Midwest Turf Clinic at Medinah Country Club, **Tom Lively, CGCS** host.

November 17 – MAGCS Annual Fall Dinner Dance at Eaglewood Resort, Kristi and **Ben Exline** hosts.

MAGCS extends a cordial welcome to its newest members and wishes them the best of success:

**Steven Kuretsky**, Class C, Cantigny Golf Club

**Daniel Augdahl**, Class C, George Dunne National (returning member)

Please send your best thoughts for a speedy recovery to longtime MAGCS member **Rod Betterly** (Halloran & Yauch) who suffered a stroke on July 4th. As of press time, Rod is progressing very well, being nearly finished with his therapy regimen. He reports that his hand and his speech are getting better daily, and he hopes to return to work for light duty within the month. Hang in there, Rod!

MAGCS wishes all the best to **Alan Perkinson** in his new career move. After over 7 years at Broken Arrow Golf Club, Alan has decided to move on to other callings. As of August 13th, he is working for the Brickman Group, while he and his family will remain living in Lockport. Alan thanks everyone who has supported him in his career, and hopes his old MAGCS acquaintances will keep in touch. His personal email address is gaperk@sbcglobal.net. Best of luck, Alan!

GCSAA has announced its 2007 Legacy Award winners, among whom are Brianne Smith, daughter of **Jeff Smith** (Springbrook GC) and Hallie Mosblack, daughter of **Dan Mosblack, CGCS** (Janesville CC in Wisconsin). There were 20 of the \$1,500.00 scholarships awarded, based on academic achievement, community involvement, extracurricular activi-

ties, and leadership skills. All applicants must be enrolled at an institute of higher learning or be accepted by one (if a high school senior). Brianne is enrolled at Cornell University majoring in biological and environmental engineering, and Hallie at the University of South Carolina majoring in biological sciences. Congratulations to these 2 MAGCS standouts.

(continued on next page 24)



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GCSAA has set the deadline of October 15 for nominations to be accepted for its 2008 Excellence in Government Relations (EGR) Awards. These awards, presented at the Golf Industry Show in Orlando in February, recognize and honor outstanding individual and chapter efforts and accomplishments in the areas of advocacy and compliance. Nominees are judged based on how their efforts best serve the interests of the golf course industry, and are not limited to just the previous year's activities. Not to make light of this important award, but can you tell I'm really short on material this month?

In other GCSAA news, it was recently announced that the 2008 Old Tom Morris Award will be presented to Greg Norman on January 31st during the Opening Session of the Golf Industry Show in Orlando. Norman, a longtime advocate of our profession, responded to the news by saying, "I have always had the utmost respect for the GCSAA and I believe its members are truly the unsung heroes of our sport. But crikey, what do you mates do in the winter anyhow?"

Next month will bring to a conclusion another MAGCS golf season as we head to the rolling Lockport countryside and Prairie Bluff Golf Club. The event is always fun as flags and colors of our alma maters are proudly displayed and some good-natured competition is the theme of the day. Our host is the always-effervescent Kenny Shepherd, whose son Craig was kind (or evil) enough to share this image of dear ol' dad back in the day. If Ryan had a calendar back in the 70's, this pic woulda been in it— "Guys 'n Gams 'n' the GreensAire"



On July 29, the Bolingbrook Golf Club and **Jeff Gerdes** hosted Mutual of Omaha's Drive, Chip, and Putt local championship—the world's largest junior golf skills competition. Presented by Golf Channel, it included participants in 4 age divisions ranging from 7-14 years old, and featured competition in 3 areas (can you guess by the name?)—driving, chipping, and putting.

This just in: Reinders, Inc. has announced the opening of a new 7,000 square foot store in Vernon Hills, making it the second such store in Illinois (the other being in Rockford). A grand opening celebration will take place on September 26-

27 at the new location, which is at 1000 S. Butterfield Road, #1007 at the corner of Butterfield and Hawthorn Parkway.

Thinking of becoming a General Manager? Already taking on some of those responsibilities? The National Institute of Golf Management (NIGM) is offering a program for you. GCSAA serves as an education partner to NIGM, a program that brings in golf course superintendents, general managers, golf pros, food and beverage personnel and golf course owners for a dynamic week of education and networking. The 2008 Institute will be held at Oglebay Resort & Conference Center, Wheeling, W. Va. Jan. 6 – 11. For more information on the program, visit [www.nigminstitute.com](http://www.nigminstitute.com) or contact Sarah Clopton, Sr. Manager, Curriculum at [sclopton@gcsaa.org](mailto:sclopton@gcsaa.org).

Audubon International has sadly said goodbye to Jean Mackay as she leaves after 15 years to pursue a new role as Communications and Outreach Director for the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor in New York. Anyone who has participated in the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program knows Jean and the invaluable service she has provided to the program, to golf, and to the environment. We wish her well.

Russ Myers, CGCS, Southern Hills CC.

(Just didn't want to be the only golf trade publication that didn't mention his name).

Of course, the host superintendent of a major championship SHOULD be featured in our industry periodicals. And if you sifted through August's GCM with the aforementioned Mr. Myers featured on the cover, you would have been pleasantly surprised to find an item in the Front Nine section on page 24 titled "Veteran super readies for challenge" about **Ken Lapp**. Among the facts and figures cited, I found several to really stand out:

Ken's career in golf course management has spanned 52 years, with the last 35 at Cog Hill Golf & Country Club. His first superintendent job was at age 19 at Fresh Meadow GC in Hillside. He has prepped Cog Hill's Dubsdread course for a U. S. Amateur, 2 men's and one women's Public Links championships, 16 Western Opens, and he will do it once again this month for the BMW Championship, the final qualifier in the PGA Tour's FedEx Cup Series. After this event, Ken will embark on something he has never experienced since becoming a superintendent in 1955—a total renovation of the 43-year-old Dubsdread. Oh, and Ken is 71 years old and has not even thought about retirement. Great job by Terry Ostmeyer at GCM for a story well worth telling.

August or March? Strange occurrences and golf courses seem to go hand in hand. Perhaps the main reason we do what we do is because each and every day brings new surprises as we head out on the golf course. This photo of a golf course pond has not been doctored, nor was it a St. Patrick's Day dye job—it just happened one day and went away the next.

(continued on page 26)





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*St. Patrick's day in August, a pond trick.*

Other odd August phenomenon involves the general malaise crewmembers suffer after summer's long grind. This can lead to such craziness as ... taking a superintendent's instructions literally and to his very word. This being said, be careful when you tell a new guy to "go mulch the tree on #15"—he just might.



*I meant place mulch around the tree not turn the tree into mulch when I said "go mulch the tree on 15."*

### MAGCS Recent Events

The July meeting was once again a trip to the old ballpark for some fun in the sun out in left field. The annual MAGCS Family Night Picnic at Kane County Cougars took place on July 21st, and a great crowd of members, spouses, significant others, and of course children found their way to Elfstrom Stadium for the festivities. The weather cooperated supremely, even if the Cougars did not, losing 8-3 to some other Class A team. The evening's sponsors, **Absolute Service, Arthur Clesen, Inc., Growing Solutions, Nadler Golf Car Sales, Nels J. Johnson Tree Experts, Inc., Palatine Oil Company, Syngenta, Turf Professionals Equipment Company,** and Women's Center for Health ensured that everyone enjoyed a great picnic buffet, endless refreshments, and goody bags for the kids. This is a really great family event, with the picnic, the game, and the really spectacular fireworks show afterward. And to top that, the kids get to run the bases before going home for the night. Thank you to our generous sponsors and to everyone who had a hand in arranging for our fun time.

(more photos on page 30)







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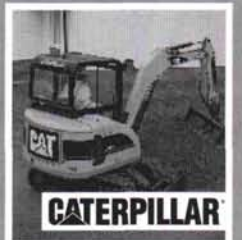
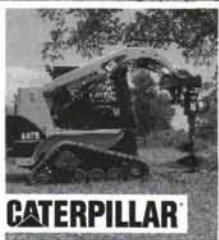
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Last month, on the 7th, MAGCS members converged upon Mistwood Golf Club for their August monthly meeting and golf event. Host superintendent **Dave Drendel** and assistant supe **Ben Kelnhofer** worked miracles in having the course in such terrific shape despite the heavy rains prior to the event. It was a steamy day, and without their allowing carts, there would have been some major keeling over out there. Even WITH carts, several of the participants wilted under the hot sun and subtropic humidity. After a rousing education program featuring Doug Bauer of Tall Grass Restoration titled "Native Area Management of Your Golf Course," it was hit the links time for the popular Progressive Logo Ball Competition. We lost ours on our second hole, and how ANYONE could possibly retain that stinkin' ball for 18 holes on a golf course fulla water and tall grass and water and water is beyond me. But someone did—Scott Speiden, John Nelson, Bob Rigney, and Warren Shafer to be specific. Another new fun feature was the hole-in-one contest hosted by **Mark Norville** and Shorelins Sand on like the most IMPOSSIBLE par 3 in the world. I must make a special note here in regard to the absolutely OUTSTANDING beverage cart service—those ladies kept everyone hydrated and then some! The service in the clubhouse after golf was equally superb, with a dinner fit for a king awaiting us after toweling off and cooling down in the air conditioned splendor. All in all, it was a steamy mother of a day made great by all involved. To Dave and Ben and the grounds staff, to the service personnel, to the executive chef, and to our wonderful sponsors—**Chicagoland Turf, Growing Solutions, Harris Golf Cars, Huber Ranch Sod Nursery, Lemont Paving, Municipal Well and Pump, Nadler Golf Car Sales, Palatine Oil, Raymond Hearn Golf Course Designs, and Turf Professionals Equipment Company**—we thank you for a great, great day.

