



# Put a Little More Light on the Subject

Today's lighting has changed from night to day. This past February our maintenance shop was reborn with new lighting (along with a cleaning of the ceiling and walls). On a scale from 1 to 10 our lighting is now a 10. Before the month-long project started, the brightness was about a 4 by my rating. My eyeglasses transition lenses actually tint a little now when I walk into the shop. Now, as people arrive at work, I notice they all squint upon entering the shop. I removed every one of the extra lamps that were suspended above various work areas such as the machine shop area grinding room, and the work benches. Considering that each new light fixture cost less than \$200, this was a much needed and welcome improvement not just to my daily life, but to the golf course. The anticipated energy savings are remarkable.

The project started with some planning. Cleaning supplies, scaffolding, protective gloves, face shields, and towels were

collected, and then we emptied the shop of as much machinery as possible. The quantities of hot water we used while cleaning in the frigid month of February did cause moisture and humidity to accumulate. That was expected. It was important to lubricate and cover shop equipment for protection. The reel and bed knife grinder were most protected. Our only mishap involved setting off the security alarm and having the police and fire department show up. Water had entered an outlet that powered the alarm system and direct phone link.

Since completion of the project, I have noticed a reduction in eye strain and the use of eye drops. The shop is more enjoyable than ever to work in (if that was even possible).

I hope by this time everyone is geared up and running. As always, "keep 'em cutting straight and true." -OC



*The winter maintenance at Wilmette included more than equipment this year. The shop was deep-cleaned and new light fixtures were installed. (Left picture shows the old lights and prep work for the cleaning, right picture shows the results.)*

## THE BULL SHEET

John Gurke, CGCS, Associate Editor



# April 2008

### DATES TO REMEMBER

April 14 – NEW deadline for completing [GCSAA's Pesticide Use Survey](#). Details follow.

April 21-23 – Annual Golf Inc. Conference '08 at the Doral Golf Resort & Spa in Miami, FL.

April 28 – MAGCS monthly meeting and season-opening golf event—the 4-Person Spring Scramble—at White Eagle Golf Club, **Gilberto Velazquez** host.

May 12 –Annual MAGCS/ITF Spring Scramble Golf Day. **Jim Keith, CGCS** and St. Charles Country Club will be our hosts for this new and improved event.

June 2 – MAGCS monthly meeting at Royal Melbourne, **Dave Groelle, CGCS** host. The Dom Grotti, Senior Championship and Class C Championship will be contested at this event.

July 19 – MAGCS Kane County Cougar Game and Family Picnic at Elfstrom Field in Geneva, IL.

A hearty how ya doin' and warm welcome to these newest members of MAGCS:

NAME	COMPANY	CLASS
Beau Breunig	Billy Casper Golf	A
Kyle Jacobsen	Twin Orchard Country Club	A
Samuel Ortman	South Shore Golf Club	A
Matthew Springer	Quincy Country Club	A
Curtis Tyrrell	Medinah Country Club	A
Scott White	Mauh-Nah-Tee-See Country Club	SM
Elliott Dowling	Ivanhoe Club	C
Todd Fyffe	Westmoreland Country Club	C
Josh Grossman	Glen Flora Country Club	C
Aaron Hearn	Stonebridge Country Club	C
Thom Irvin	Indian Hill Club	C
Justin Kirtland	Cress Creek Country Club	C
Kevin Knoblauch	Milwaukee Country Club	C
Corey Kuhl	Butler National Golf Club	C
Gerald Lecey	Westmoreland Country Club	C
Barry McDonald	Schaumburg Golf Club	C
David Milosheff	Briar Ridge Country Club	C
Joseph Schneider	Black Sheep Golf Club	C
Jedd Anderson	Christopher B. Burke Engineering, Ltd.	E
Brad Marks	Sepro Corporation	E
Jeff Mazur	Great Lakes Turf, LLC	E
Robert Richardson	Steel Building Systems Co.	E
Dave Rutz	The Golf Mat	E
Ben Strupeck	Great Lakes Turf	E
Steve Sweet	Grigg Bros.	E
Eric Radkowsky	Bull Valley Golf Club	A

The winter months have been a very busy time for several MAGCS members who have either added to their families or changed employment. Let's kick things off with all of the good news:

Congratulations to **Jake Vollbeer** on his recent promotion to Turf Sales Manager for Burris Equipment Company. Jake had been the North side turf equipment salesman, and now fills the vacancy left by Phil Taylor after his move to Houston, Texas. He brings some impressive credentials to his new job, including a 4-year turf degree and a Masters in Business Administration.



MAGCS Board of Directors heads to Wisconsin for their March meeting.

(continued on page 25)





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Wednesday, March 5th was a blessed day for **Brian Baker** and his family as they welcomed their daughter Reagan Deborah to their world. Reagan is Brian and Dana's third child, and their first daughter, and entered their lives at 8:03 in the morning, weighing 7 lbs., 10 ozs., and 19 inches long. Happy days for the Bakers!



*Reagan Deborah Baker*

Another MAGCS member on the move to greener pastures is **Brad Anderson, CGCS**. Brad, formerly at Midlane Country Club, has accepted a position as golf course superintendent in Birmingham, Michigan. We will miss Brad's other talents as associate editor and frequent contributor to these pages, heading up the Midwest Breezes section while also recapping the education sessions at our monthly meetings. We wish Brad, Kim, and their large brood the best of luck in Michigan, and I personally wish to add my thanks to Brad for his many years of friendship.



*Brad Anderson*

To fill the void left by Brad Anderson's relocation, MAGCS announces that **Chuck Anfield, CGCS** (Heritage Bluffs Golf Course) will be the new associate editor in charge of Midwest Breezes and Education session recaps. Chuck brings quite a bit of writing talent to the table himself, having gained instant stardom (in his mind) as editor of the Chicagoland Association of Golf Course Superintendents publication *Verdure*. Welcome, Chuck—now get busy!



*Chuck Anfield*

We're not done with this "movers and shakers" theme by a long shot. Chicagoland Turf announced that **Keith Krause**—formerly of Reinders, Inc.—became their newest sales representative, joining the team on February 25th. **Sean Hearden**, former sales rep for Chicagoland, has moved on to take a position as underwriter for Chubb Insurance in Chicago. Congratulations and best wishes to both gentlemen (word used loosely of course)



*Keith Krause*

**Jim Wyffels** has resigned from his position with Billy Casper Golf and has moved back to the childhood home of he and his wife Krista in the Quad Cities. Jim has accepted the position of golf course superintendent at the new Fyre Lake National Golf Club and Marina in Sherrard, IL just south of Moline. The course is a Nicklaus design, and is being constructed by Golf Creations. Good luck to you and your family, Jim.

**Bryan Stromme**, former superintendent of Whisper Creek Golf Club, has been promoted to Regional Superintendent for Chicago by Billy Casper Golf. The very busy Bryan also completed his Masters in Business in February. Congratulations, Bryan!

Another MAGCS family has grown recently—**Kyle Jacobson** (Twin Orchard Country Club) and his wife Stephanie welcomed their first child into the world on February 20th. Adam Joseph was 7 lbs., 10 ozs., and 18 inches long, and actually caused mom and dad a lot of last-minute shopping and preparing by arriving earlier than planned. Everyone is doing great, and by now I'm sure things have settled down a bit at the Jacobson home! Congrats!

*(continued on page 27)*



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
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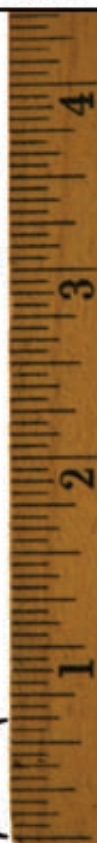
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*Congratulations to Stephanie and Kyle Jacobson on the birth of their first son Adam Joseph.*

So what's with all these 7-pound, 10-ounce babies? Did the hospital scale get stuck?

**Michael Heustis** (not to be confused with Husted), former assistant superintendent at Chicago Golf Club, is the new superintendent at Chicago Highlands Club in Westchester, IL. This project is an Arthur Hills design, and is being built by Wadsworth Golf Course Construction on a 270-acre site. The 18-hole course will play to 7,400 yards, and will feature 75 feet of elevation change, offering views of the Chicago skyline to the east. Michael's new status has left his position as Class C Advisor to the MAGCS Board of Directors open, a position that will be ably filled by the appointment of **Scott Verdun** of Merit Club. Scott has been an active member of the Class C Committee, and will no doubt transition into this new role with nary a snag. Congratulations to both of these young fellas.

Finally—I THINK I got them all—we extend our best wishes to 2 longtime MAGCS members on their recent job changes.

**Ken Shepherd**, the superintendent at Prairie Bluff Golf Club in Lockport for the last 11 years has decided to make a short move—literally a 50-foot walk to his new quarters—leaving the golf course to take on the role of superintendent of parks for the Lockport Park District. Filling Kenny's size 30 shoes at Prairie Bluff is another old friend, as past MAGCS president **Luke Strojny** was named the new superintendent last month. We wish both of these venerated veterans the best in their new endeavors.



*Ken Shepherd*



*Luke Strojny*

New from GCSAA—Class A members can now apply for certification after only 1 year as a Class A member as opposed to the previous 3-year requirement. Contact Certification Coordinator Penny Mitchell if you are eligible and interested.

MAGCS sends its condolences to **Holly** and **Mark Gilmour** and their families on the loss of their father James last month. Memorial contributions can be made to the Audubon Society in memory of Mr. Gilmour.

GCSAA has extended its deadline for completing the [Pesticide Use Survey](#) from March 15th to April 15th (by the time you read this it has probably been extended again, but that's just me talkin'). You still might want to take the time to fill this thing out, as it gets you .50 service points on your GCSAA transcript, as well as a chance for a flat screen TV and 7 gift cards valued at \$250.

What, you may be asking, is the Golf Inc. Conference '08? Well, sit right down and let me tell you. It's something none of us will attend, first off. But if you DID have April 21 through 23 open, and you can get to Miami, and your seminar budget is still being printed in black ink, this might be the deal for you. Without going into too much detail, this event combines the movers and shakers, the visionaries, and the industry mavens of our business into a 3-day extravaganza of information. Geared toward owners, developers, and other industry leaders, this 20-year-old event features something for everyone in the golf business, focusing on innovative thinking and unique vision toward the future of the golf business. To learn more about this event, go to [www.golfincmagazine.com](http://www.golfincmagazine.com) and follow the conference links.

Two recently-spotted news flashes that caught our attention: "Hustler Enters Golf Market" and "Chickity Doo Doo Offers Organic Fertilizer." Who says the future of our business is grim?

Congratulations to our Class C Committee and its successful Winter Workshop this past February 21st. The event included presentations by **Bruce Williams, CGCS**, past president of both MAGCS and GCSAA, and current director of golf course operations at the Los Angeles Country Club along with current GCSAA president **David Downing, CGCS**. Attendees gained valuable information on the hiring process from Bruce, as he shared his insight on not only getting interviewed, but the keys to performing well throughout the entire process. David Downing then presented his views on our national association, highlighting all it has to offer its members. Great job everyone!



*The Annual Assistant Workshop at Midwest Golf House.*

*(continued on page 29)*

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*GCSAA's president Dave Downing, CGCS addresses the Class C crowd.*



*The Class C committee thanks Bruce Williams, CGCS for helping them plan their future.*

Yummy—the latest USGA-sponsored research into biological cutworm control has yielded a potential winner. A naturally-occurring baculovirus called AgipMNPV—basically Ebola for cutworms—has shown to be an effective cutworm killer which infects the larvae, causes disease symptoms including necrotic spots and a milky appearance followed by liquefaction of the innards, leading finally to the rupturing of the outer body covering which spreads the baculovirus to other larvae. This sounds like a case for the ASPCA.

The Illinois Turfgrass Foundation has made several announcements recently. First, there will no longer be 2 ITF Golf Days on your calendar, as it was determined that one bigger and better spring event would make better sense, especially with the large number of fall events to pick and choose from. Second, there is a new Affiliate membership class available for a yearly fee of \$25.00. This class makes it affordable for facilities to have multiple employees, including golf professionals, managers, technicians, assistants, etc. join and receive the benefits of ITF membership. Finally, this year's ITF Turfgrass Field Day will be held at Midwest Golf House in Lemont on September 10th, so mark your calendars.

As of this printing, no charges had been filed yet against the Lake Villa man who landed his airplane on the golf course at Marriott's Lincolnshire Resort last month. Here's the funny thing—it wasn't an emergency landing due to a mechanical problem with the plane or the like. The reason the guy landed his ski-fitted Piper Clipper there was that his 14-year-old son, who was his passenger, was running late for a tennis lesson at a nearby club. According to Lincolnshire police detective John-Erik Anderson, tennis lessons are not considered emergencies, so a non-scheduled landing for this reason is not permitted.

On the lighter side, the following quotes were seen on Golf-dom Insider recently, recalling back over the years with "The Darndest Things That People Say." When asked in 2005 to describe how his golf game looks, **Jon Jennings, CGCS** of Chicago Golf Club said, "It looks like somebody who works—and not at golf." Then, in 2006 when Frank Jemsek of Cog Hill Golf & Country Club was asked why a certain event was no longer on the schedule, he answered, "We used to run an alternate-shot couples tournament. We started calling it the divorce open."

**-OC**



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# Robert M. Williams

*The world of golf has lost a true legend with the passing of Bob Williams on March 7th at the age of 93. Much can (and will) be said of Mr. Williams' contributions to our profession on the national and international level—these are the things for which he will be remembered most, I suspect. But around here, he'll be remembered as the most renowned golf course superintendents in the Chicagoland area - ever. Bob served as president of MAGCS in 1956, and went on to become president of GCSAA in 1958. He served as president of the CAGCS in 1979. He was the man who gave this publication both of its names; first in 1948 when he volunteered the name "Bull Sheet" for the association's new newsletter, recalling the name from his Fort Campbell, Kentucky Army camp newsletter. Then, in 1995 a contest was held to rename the magazine, and Bob's submission of "On Course" was the winner. Bob was an innovator in the world of golf course maintenance, and changed the way people went about the profession of golf course superintendent. The awards and honors bestowed on Bob over his career could fill an arena, but I imagine they weren't the things he prized most. Having known Bob Williams and having benefited from my chats with him, I believe the things he held most dear were the friends—and there were MANY—that he made and the young men whose careers he started and nurtured. Bob's passing is truly the end of an era, and we will all miss his character, his wisdom, and his class.*

– John Gurke, CGCS, Aurora Country Club

He took a chance on me. I was not a turf student nor was I headed in a good direction. Bob saw something in me and helped guide my career, as well as many, many others. Bob was my first boss and with his capable young assistant Bruce, helped show me the turf business. He was a direct, no-nonsense man to work for who was detail oriented, humble and compassionate. When I worked for him, I never knew he was a GCSAA president but I did know he cared about our work. That caring never ceased. I attended my first National Conference in 1978, in St. Louis, by riding down there with Bob Williams and Ray Gerber. The turf chatter never stopped that day. I am forever grateful for all that he did for the turf industry and for mentoring myself through the college years.

–R. Brian Green, CGCS, Sunset Valley Golf Course

I was first introduced to Mr. Williams back in the mid 1970s as a young starry eyed assistant superintendent by my then boss, Harold Frederickson. We met at a Midwest meeting at the late Anthony Meyer's course which is now where Seven Bridges sits. I remember sitting down with Tony Meyer, Ray Gerber and Bob Williams after business was taken care of and being in awe of these great Superintendents. I just sat and listened and knew that I might never get the chance as a youngster in

the business to listen to these men discuss at a personal level like this. So I sat and said nothing and absorbed.

I took advantage of Bob's intellect and knowledge while working my way through college and grew very respectful of everything that he had to say relating to our industry. He was very advanced in his ideas and ideals of how it should be done and why. He helped me very much with my research in school and I appreciated all the time that he allowed me to speak with him. Bob Williams along with many others throughout my career have been instrumental in doing what I love to do today. Thanks Bob for all of your help and caring and I will miss you.

– Harry Lovero, Orchard Valley Golf Course

Bob, at all times, represented a level of true CLASS. He will always be remembered as being the very BEST and when he spoke, people listened. – Carl Hopphan, MAGCS Life Member

Bob Williams may not have been the best grass grower in the industry, but he was the best communicator. He was the pioneer in raising the status of the golf course superintendent. He taught all of us that the appearance and communication skills of the golf course superintendent were our keys to a successful career.

– Randy Wahler, CGCS, Knollwood Club

(continued on next page)