

Equipment Techs Certification Process

Every year since 1997, the Turf Equipment Technicians Association has attended the Equipment & Engine Training Council (EETC) Conference. This year the conference was held in Orlando, Florida, from April 17-20. The EETC conference brings manufacturers, distributors, dealers, educators, and industry related associations like TETA together. They go over the various technician certification tests that are available, and they create new ones. That's not to say that everyone who attends works on the same tests. TETA's main focus has been on the EETC Turf Committee, which is responsible for the current Reel Technology Certification Test. At this year's conference the Turf Committee representatives were from Jacobsen, John Deere, Foley United, various educators, and TETA.

Over the last year (and it took well over a year), there was – or at least that's what it seemed like – this notion of or need for a single test that would certify turf equipment technicians. It was the EETC board of Directors who finally said that all tests must be and will remain in their current format. After much debate the Turf Committee unanimously voted not to pursue a single certification test. Turf Equipment Certification will consist of the two stroke, four stroke, compact diesel, electrical, hydraulic driveline, reel technology tests and any other that may be created in the future for the sole purpose of certifying turf equipment technicians.

The Turf Committee agreed that the current tests should be examined to see if any of the questions are not related to turf equipment. These questions would be replaced with appropriate ones. The committee also decided to create a mission statement and measures for certifying turf equipment technicians. The chairman of the Turf Committee, Mark Nelson of Briggs & Stratton, resigned, and new co-chairmen were elected. Erik Sides of Jacobsen Turf Care and Wes Danielewicz of TETA are the new Co-Chairmen. Once these issues were settled, the discussion turned to what certification tests, if any, should be added. After some discussion it was determined that sprayers/spraying systems or utility vehicles might be a good step forward.

It is amazing how much work is accomplished in the two-day period of this conference. There are those who feel that certification can be obtained by answering a few questions and calling you certified. The EETC certification tests are recognized by the turf industry because manufacturers such as Jacobsen,

John Deere, and Toro are part of the Turf Committee. Educational Institutions such as Boise State University, Penn State University, Texas State Technical College, Walla Walla Community College, and many more, recognize the importance of having one organization, such as the EETC, organize and create these certification tests. If every tech association tried to create their own certification program, those programs would not mean a thing. An organization such as the EETC brings the industry together under one

roof, at one table, to create and recognize the need for turf equipment certification.

The EETC technician certification tests are designed to show an employer that a candidate for a technician's position has the basic knowledge needed to do the job. They are a tool for judging a technician's knowledge of the fundamentals, theory, and service of two and four stroke gas engines, compact diesel engines, electrical systems, hydraulic systems, drive trains, and reel technology.

For more information on EETC or certification testing visit www.tetaonline.org or www.eetc.org. -OC



New co-chairman of the EETC Turf Committee (l to r) Mark Nelson and Wes Danielewicz and past chairman Mark Nelson.



THE BULL SHEET

John Gurke, CGCS, Associate Editor



August 2008

DATES TO REMEMBER

August 6-7 – 2008 Penn State Field Days at the Valentine Research Center in University Park, PA.

August 6-9 – Golf Course Builders Association of America's summer meeting at the Ritz-Carlton in Deerborn, MI. Call 402-476-4444 or visit gcbaa.org for information.

August 13 – Ohio State University Turfgrass & Landscape Research Field Day at the OTF Research & Education Center in Columbus, OH. Call 888-683-3445 or go to ohioturfgrass.org for details.

August 19-21 – 2008 Independent Garden Center Show at Navy Pier in Chicago, IL.

August 26 – CAGCS monthly meeting at Midlothian Country Club, **Dave Behrman, CGCS** host.

September 10 – CDGA-Sunshine Course Turfgrass Field Day at Midwesst Golf House in Lemont, IL. Watch your mail and email for more information.

September 12 – University of Illinois Turfgrass Field Day in Urbana, IL. Call 630-243-9483 or go to illinoisturfgrassfoundation.org for the goods. Or call Luke Cella and ask him.

September 18 – MAGCS Golf Championship at Glen Erin Golf Club, **Dave Braasch** host.

September 29 – CAGCS Founder's Cup at Olympia Fields Country Club, **Sam MacKenzie, CGCS** host.

MAGCS welcomes the following new members and wishes them the best in their future endeavors:

Dale Bates, Class E—Cooper Oil Company.

Maureen Clark, Class E—Dow Agrosiences.

Ken Hill, Class SM—Billy Casper Golf/White Mountain.

Aaron Johnson, Class E—Spectrum Ttechnologies.

Nick Marfise, Class C—Glenview Park District.

Rick Wilberschied, Class E—All That's Wildlife.

Following a 2-year stint with Hydrologic, Reed Irrigation Service is back in business. **Jim Reed's** company will offer services including irrigation and recharge project reports, staking and construction management, programming of field satellites and central control systems, GPS mapping, sprinkler changeouts, and sprinkler verification for precipitation rate operation. Jim can be contacted at 630-675-5028 or at reedirrigation@aol.com.

Another MAGCS member has hung his shingle over his door. **David Oberle**, formerly with BASF, has founded Excel Turf and Ornamental based in Eagan, Minnesota. Excel will offer both product and technical support for the turf and ornamental industry in the upper Midwest.

It is with deep regret that we part with one of our dear old friends. On July 1st, **Kenny Goodman**, the retired superintendent of Bull Valley Golf Club passed away after a battle with cancer. Prior to Bull Valley, Ken had served as superintendent at Green Acres CC and Mt. Prospect GC.

Grant Neff has been promoted to the superintendent position at Joe Louis "The Champ" Golf Course. Grant was formerly the assistant superintendent at George Dunne National Golf Course. Grant has worked for Billy Casper Golf since the spring of 2008. Congratulations Grant.

GCSAA news: First, if you are a class A, AA, ART, SM, or SMRT member, you should have already received your 2008 Membership Directory in the mail. If this is not the case, call 800-472-7878 and raise a beef. Second, a new certification brochure is now available that provides a step-by-step guide

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
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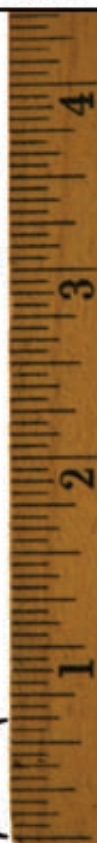
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to pursuing the CGCS designation. "Climbing the Ladder to Success through the GCSAA Certification Program" can be obtained by calling the same above number and then punching in extension 4484 or 4424.

How about this news from MAGCS member **Dean Styburski** of Western Acres Golf Course to put things into perspective: Dean will be leaving on August 28th to join his unit, and arrive at Fort Bragg, North Carolina on September 30th for a 45-day training stint before being deployed to Afghanistan. AFGHANISTAN. Dean gives his wife Ro (Rosetta) all the credit for taking care of the homestead while he has been training at Fort Chaffee, Arkansas, and also mentions their son Steve will complete basic training on August 22nd and is loving Army life. Steve is working toward attending Airborne school, and his unit is set to deploy in the same time frame as his dad's. Let's all wish the Styburskis the best and keep them in our thoughts—they are the guys that are keeping us all safe here at home, and they are heroes. If you want to keep in touch with Dean, contact him at dean.w.styburski@us.army.mil.



Dean with his favorite MRE (meal, ready-to-eat) vegetarian style.

Looks like **Mike Vercautren** will be very busy in the coming year—Butterfield Country Club has retained the services of golf course architect Steve Smyers to do a major renovation to all 27 holes of the 1922 William Langford design. The scope of the project will include major drainage improvements and stabilization of the eroding Ginger Creek and Midwest Club tributary that run through the property, as well as restoring the Langford philosophy to the golf course design, including bringing back the traditional landing areas, restoring original bunker patterns and green contours, and increasing the yardage of the 18-hole course from 6,600 yards to 7,200 yards. Best of luck to Mike and his staff in this ambitious project.

News from one of our retired friends: **Jim McNair**, former superintendent at Orchard Valley Golf Course and currently residing in Eureka, IL recently went through knee replacement surgery. Jim says he hardly ever hits the "drip" button to relieve the pain, and has been home and rehabbing since July 17th. Still no news as to what happened to the original knee and how it was lost, but conventional thinking has Jim's rigorous exercise regimen as the culprit. If you want to hear from Jim, give him a call at 309-530-5462 and say hello to an old buddy.

Great news from **John Ekstrom** recently—he and his wife Erica welcomed their new son Aiden Roger into the world on July 15th at 11:43 AM at Edward Hospital in Naperville. Aiden arrived in "typical Ekstrom fashion—1 week late," and was delivered by Dr. Linda Anderson (wife of Tim Anderson, CGCS). Congratulations to the Ekstrom family!



John and son, Aiden

There was a great article in June's *Golf Course Industry* magazine featuring MAGCS member **Steve Cook, CGCS, MG** of Oakland Hills Country Club. "Motown Major Man," written by Pat Jones details Steve's rise to his current position and his knack for hosting major championships such as the Ryder Cup and this month's PGA Championship. Steve mentions **Dan Anderson** as the friend who got him interested in the golf maintenance business and professes his lifelong love of the Cubs as one of his favorite pastimes.

Had enough of those Penalty-Stroke.net "AST/Toro Company spitting match" emails yet?

On July 7th the Highlands of Elgin and **Brad Legnaioli, CGCS** hosted the 8th Annual John Buck Golf Outing to a packed house. This event has become a yearly must-do for MAGCS members as it honors the man whose name it bears while providing scholarships for 3 separate organizations: MAGCS, Northwest Illinois Golf Course Superintendents Association, and the Kane County Farm Bureau Foundation. As usual, the golf event was a four-person scramble with many fun surprises on the course throughout the round (such as the stuffed bra hole—figure it out from the photo). When the dust had settled and the scores were tabulated, the winning score of 61 was carded by the team of **Dave Blomquist, John Gurke, Jeff Hoste, and Andy Weadge**. Longest Putt was holed by **John Maguire**; Longest Drive was belted by Ryan Knox; Closest to the Pin on #8 was finessed by **Tim Johnson**, while Ken Bartels took that honor on #13; and Straightest Drive was striped by **Jeff Rehberg**. Many thanks to the Highlands of Elgin and Brad and Mike Lehman, to the folks at JW Turf including **Holly and Mark**

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Gilmour, Danna Eberly, Nick Hongisto, Joe Hustler, John Maguire, Jeff Rehberg, Rick Uthe, and Kelli Zopfi, to everyone who either volunteered, participated and/or donated to the cause, and to John Buck for being the kind of gentleman that he was.



A little humiliation for all the men that played . . . each had to add a few pounds to their pectorals for this tee shot.



Host, Brad Legnaioli, if only one i was a u in his last name he would have all the vowels, that is if you didn't count the y. Thanks Brad, great job.



How many decks does it take to make 14 royal flushes to the king?



Keith Krause with none of his customers.



Bruce Schweiger with all of his customers.



Help from all around. Kaycee DeRoo, (r) daughter of Kevin came out and helped during the event.



Thanks to all those that participated in the John Buck Outing, helping to fund MAGCS the scholarship fund. -OC

Family Night Picnic



As the rain fell early on Saturday morning July 19, it was uncertain if the MAGCS would be able to come together with their families at the Cougar baseball game. Though the rain fell steady into mid-morning, the Cougar website proclaimed "Game On". At 4:00 pm the gates to the ball park opened up, our members enjoyed the barbeque buffet, and at 6:00 pm the first pitch was thrown.

MAGCS thanks all of the sponsors that helped make this night memorable and fun, especially for the kids. **Reinders, Nels J Johnson Tree Experts, Nadler Golf Car Sales – An Authorized Club Car Distributor, J.W. Turf Inc., Bayer Environmental Sciences, Palatine Oil Company and Burris Equipment Company.**

As an added bonus, immediately following the ball game, nearly 4,000 fans were given pillows and allowed on the field to take part in the world's largest pillow fight. Several of the MAGCS picnic attendees took part in the event which is now in the process of verification by Mr. Guinness himself. The current record stands at 3,648 that was set at the University of Albany in New York on April 17, 2005. The Cougars claim they smashed this record with 3,872 fans that fought this night.

Scholarship Winners Awarded

For the past several years MAGCS has invited the scholarship winners and their families to the event to recognize their accomplishments. This year, all three winners were present.

Angela Galsidorfer, daughter of MAGCS member Kurt (Exmoor Country Club) won the John Buck Scholarship. Angela will be entering Iowa State University this fall.

"Leadership is defined as an act or instance of leading, guidance, or direction. When this word comes to mentality, it's not easy to consider myself a leader. Hearing the word, military commanders, rulers of countries, or even teachers and my class president comes to mind. Reassessing my high school career, I realize that even the nominal contributions can make an impact.

In 7th grade I became involved in the Vernon Hills Park District summer camp for children ages 2-6. To this day, I continue to be involved with the program every summer. Needless to say each summer I met some unique kids. Every year I

enjoyed teaching kids everything and anything they wanted to know. Without a doubt, in their eyes I was already a leader. However, my most memorable year in the program was when we had a very special camper—Tyler.

Tyler had a developmental problem. In the beginning it was hard to know how to communicate with Tyler. None of the other children had interest in talking or playing with him because of his lack of self control. It was difficult to train Tyler to get into a scheduled routine. But everyday I worked with Tyler, remained patient, and showed the other children how it was imperative to accept diversity.

As an assistant counselor, I thought it was important for me to give Tyler one on one time, break down directions, and explain things in smaller terms. Initially it was hard to handle, and it wasn't enjoyable; we almost wanted to give him to another group. I will never forget when Tyler was first accepted by the other campers. Seeing the other kids want to join in with Tyler and I building sandcastles in the sandbox was a small step, but meant everything to not only Tyler, but me as well.

These days were followed by Tyler participating more in group activities, like the Friday kickball game where he was able to get on first base. By the end of the summer, Tyler fit perfectly with the group and his outbursts were sparingly. Although getting Tyler to fit into the group seems like a meaningless event, it impacted not only Tyler and his family, but the other children at the camp as well. For the first time in his life, Tyler was able to say he had friends, and his family couldn't be more proud of his social progress.

Even though I didn't change the world, I made an impact on a child's life. As a leader, contributing to someone's childhood is a reward incomparable to any other. The leadership skills I learned while working with Tyler I plan to carry with me not only now, but in the future as well."

-Angela Gailsdorfer

Taylor Behrman, daughter of MAGCS member Dave (Midlothian Country Club) won the George Minnis Scholarship. Taylor will be entering the University of Illinois this fall.

"Eleanor Roosevelt once said, "You gain strength, courage, and confidence by every experience in which you really stop to look fear in the face. You must do things you think you cannot do." Leadership is exactly that. A leader must face the fears that no one else wants to and guide the followers through what is unknown. Heading an organization involves taking risks and knowing in the end no matter what, whether you succeed or fail, a lesson will be learned.

Throughout my high school career I have defined myself as a leader. I was elected by my fellow classmates to serve as the class president of my school for three consecutive years. Having a position of this nature has helped me grow as an individual and also has allowed me to help others define their goals. Being in charge does not mean that you always know what is best or that you tell everyone what to do. A leader has to adapt to the diversity of people and guide them toward a common goal through teamwork.

At my high school, Victor J. Andrew, I am involved in a very prominent leadership program that has taught me dynamic leadership skills. Our most recent focus has been on school safety. As a leader, I have promoted awareness in both identifying potential problems and reacting to crisis situation. First and foremost, our school promotes the concept of peer mediation. Additionally we encourage students to seek help from the faculty or through students trained in our natural helpers program. I was directly involved in creating a plan of action in the event of a crisis such as a shooting at our school. The plan has been implemented including scheduled drills.

I feel strongly that leadership ability evolves through participation. During my collegiate life, I plan to continue my current course of action by being both a leader and excelling in my academic studies. Life will still bring about fears, but my passion for leadership and proven determination will drive me to success."

-Taylor Behrman

Megan Schaefer, daughter of MAGCS member Paul (Prairie Isle Golf Club) won the MAGCS Scholarship. Megan will be entering her sophomore year at the University of Illinois this fall.

"One controversial problem on college campuses is an increasing number of students using prescription drugs to help them study for long periods without becoming distracted. Students looking for these drugs, designed for people with ADHD, can easily obtain them on the black market.

After taking a drug such as Adderall, students can concentrate and study for hours. It may sound harmless, but problems can occur from the abuse of these drugs. Students can become dependent, because they feel like they cannot study without them. Negative side effects include nausea, vomiting, and insomnia. After long-term use, tolerance develops and students need more of the drugs, harming their health and draining their wallet.

Universities across the country should implement a plan to decrease the abuse of ADHD drugs on campus. First, incoming freshmen and transfer students should be required to attend a seminar during the first week of classes. This seminar would give students studying, note taking, and exam tips to reduce stress. It would also detail the dangers of using ADHD drugs as a study aid. During midterms and final exams, universities could hold new optional sessions of the seminar. Posters and brochures about studying placed in dormitories and high-traffic buildings would help during high-stress times as well.

This solution would increase awareness about this huge problem that college campuses face every year. It would also put stress-reducing studying tips into the minds of students, so they would be more likely to study without the aid of ADHD prescription drugs."

-Megan Schaffer

This year there were fifteen applicants for the MAGCS Scholarships. Each applicant was judged upon college/high school transcripts, community service, volunteer work, other extracurricular activities, their essay, and application packet. MAGCS recognizes the importance of youth education and hopes to provide more scholarships in the future.

The current sources for our scholarships are:

- The John Buck Memorial Outing held by J.W. Turf, Inc.,
- The raffle held in conjunction with our Hospitality Room,
- and this year, a gift from the Oscar Miles Fund a part of the Illinois PGA Foundation.

Thank you to all those that contributed and those who participated in these events throughout the year. **-OC**

(more pictures continued on next page)



