

over the components. The controller that we installed is capable of programming multiple run-times and durations. The unit uses a nine-volt battery for power, which lasts the season and does not require any wires. In addition, the valve is also equipped with a manual open and close feature. The cost of the entire grid setup was roughly only \$350.00. With the installation complete and the guesstimated run times set, the crew was off to hand water other thirsty turf throughout the course.

The "hose dragging" staff did not water the grid test area or the area immediately around the grid for the remainder of the summer. That summer it was a relief to be able to forget about watering *any* type of area. Best of all, the test bunker face stayed healthy with good color while many of the other south- and west-facing banks became toasty if left un-watered. With a successful test under our belt and a low cost of installation to boot, it was planned and approved for several of the south- and west-facing bunker banks to be fitted with a drip system the following year. In conjunction with the installation process, several of the areas were resodded to at the same time, which makes covering the grids even easier.

The new grids continued to perform well and our installation methods kept evolving. The challenge with installation is to find an efficient and safe method for cutting a trench, three quarters of an inch wide and about 3 inches deep, into a steep

slope. Using a weedeater sized edger equipped with a blade guard and guide wheel, we modified the edger blade to cut a small trench to our specifications. The blade itself was shortened and a slight front-to-back angle was formed. Next about half of the length of an aerification tine was welded on to each end of the edger blade. The result is a weedeater that cuts the right sized trench for the tubing with ease. The edger does throw some soil, so we covered the bunker sand with a tarp to keep it clean and prevent contamination.

Because of the simplicity and low cost of these drip grids, there are plans to use drip irrigation in other areas such as flower and landscape beds. There is no doubt that caring for steep-faced grass bunker faces can be a pain in the grass if the slopes are not properly irrigated. Our "drip" use on several bunker banks continues to show that these inexpensive grids are effective and, so far, dependable (with the exception of a faulty controller).

Eventually, we would like to equip all of the bunkers with subsurface irrigation. After a little bit of experience, you will learn that a proper and efficient method for installation is not too difficult. We find the installation process much less painful than trying to hand water toasty green banks that just seem to shed water when the rest of the course is also screaming for attention with a hose. **-OC**



Installing drip irrigation while re-sodding the bunker face at the same time.



Just tap it in... Sod staples are used to hold the drip line at the bottom of the slit trench.



Tying the drip line into existing irrigation with control components was easy to do.



The drip system was a success, eliminating the need for hand watering these tough microclimates.

syngenta

POLYON

BASF

STANDARD
GOLF COMPANY



Chicagoland
TURF



**1444 Bernard Drive
Addison, IL 60101**

**Phone 630.268.8871
Fax 630.268.1357**



*Nature
Safe*
Natural & Organic Fertilizers

**Trent Bradford
630.742.2327**

**Walter Fuchs
630.258.8765**

**John Lebedevs
630.742.4905**

**Brian Baker
630.546.1454**

**Sean Hearden
630.742.4135**

DUNTEMAN
TURF FARMS

Growers of Quality Sod

SERVICE!

LOCAL GROWING FOR
EASY PICKUP OR QUICK DELIVERY.
DELIVERY ON TIME, EVERYTIME.

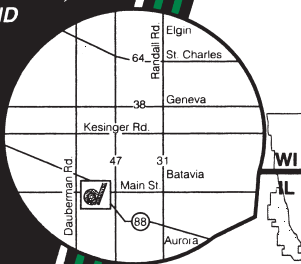
QUALITY!

FEATURING
ELITE KENTUCKY BLUEGRASS,
BENTGRASS SOD, AND
TURF-TYPE FESCUE
• LOWER MAINTENANCE
• MORE DROUGHT
& SHADE TOLERANT
• BETTER WEAR RESISTANCE

NEW
PRODUCT

PRICE!
CALL FOR A QUOTE

630-557-2900



MAIN STREET
11 MILES WEST
OF BATAVIA, IL

BTSI

Emerald Isle Solutions™

Emerald Isle True Foliar Nutrition Programs

**Provide Increased Root Mass,
Controlled Tissue Growth,
Color, and Consistency.**

CPR

4-0-1 Turf Fertilizer

**Fairway
SeaQuential**
6-0-2 with Liquid Chelated Iron

**NUTRI-RATIONAL
TrueFoliar
N-P-K Plus**
10-0-10

**NUTRI-RATIONAL
TrueFoliar
N-K Balance**
10-0-10

**NUTRI-RATIONAL
TrueFoliar
SI**
3-0-30

**NUTRI-RATIONAL
TrueFoliar
Mg-Mn**
6-0-0

PO Box 1325
Frankfort, IL 60423

800-732-9401
Fax: 815-463-8395



ITF Board of Directors

Change is upon us, and if we are to succeed, we acknowledge its existence and embrace it. We are assured in this life we don't know what tomorrow will bring. In order to stay abreast of this unstoppable metamorphosis we must adapt to this evolution. It is what separates us from less civilized cultures and inspires us to seek out solutions for problems we face. As you are all obviously aware the golf business is changing as well. The "golfing boom" we had the pleasure of experiencing at the turn of the century has long since passed. This is forcing our profession, (along with much of corporate America), to provide more, with less. And yet, at the same time demands and pressures for year round quality playing conditions continue to rise.

We want to adjust, improve, and grow both personally and professionally with these changes. Our organizational associations we belong to continue to try to do the same. The Illinois Turfgrass Foundation (ITF) is one such organization trying to stay at pace with this evolution curve. The ITF was founded almost 50 years ago as a way to establish and maintain turfgrass research in the state of Illinois. The ITF has evolved into the largest turf principal organization in the state. Through the years, the ITF has contributed a total nearing 2 million dollars to the University of Illinois (U of I), Southern Illinois University (SIU), and the Chicago District Golf Association (CDGA). And we as a board whole heartedly thank you the membership for a revenue stream that has supported our efforts for all these years.

This year the ITF/MAGCS will once again be co-hosting the Spring Golf Day. This event will be held on May 12th, 2008 at St. Charles Country Club, with Jim Keith, CGCS as our gracious host. For the past decade or so the Illinois Turfgrass Foundation (ITF) has partnered with MAGCS on this event and the MAGCS College Scramble each fall. This year, however the ITF will join forces with MAGCS for only the Spring Golf Day in hopes to focus all efforts entirely on this one event. The College Scramble will still be hosted by MAGCS, this year at Joliet Country Club, Mark Kowalczyk host.

The thought process behind this decision is simple. The ITF desires to host one really, really outstanding event rather than hosting two events which have evolved into regular monthly meetings with the proceeds to benefit the ITF. The ITF believes your time is very valuable and committing to two fundraising events a year can be burdensome when we can accomplish the same success with one fantastic event. In order for this event to be successful, we ask your help:

- You attend this event and invite another club official, owner or manager from your facility.
- If you are not able to attend, participate by having your club or company sponsor a tee.

The ITF's mission is to provide *turfgrass research and education*, and this takes resource. We as professionals along with the integrity of our profession directly benefit from this goodwill.

As our organization and profession evolves and new generations of professionals become engaged, we must and will adapt to fit needs of our industry now, and for the future. The ITF will continue its mission with you, the golf course superintendent, at the forefront of the thought process. Thank you for your support in the past, as we look to the future. See you in May at St. Charles Country Club. **-OC**

	Kerry G. Anderson Territory Manager
Valent U.S.A. Corporation 4819 Strong Road Crystal Lake, IL 60014	Office: (847) 910-3130 Fax: (925) 817-5153 Cell: (847) 946-9138 E-Mail: kerry.anderson@valent.com

PALATINE OIL CO., INC.

Over thirty-four years of caring service
and delivery of quality products



"One call does it all"



847-358-3600

P.O. Box 985, Palatine, IL 60078



Your Single Source for:

- pH Control
- Fertigation
- Injection Equipment
- Irrigation System Monitoring & Alarm

Ask about our **NEW 990v!**



- P VFD Technology
- P Eliminates Overfeed Spikes from On/Off Control
- P Affordable
- P Remote Control from Irrigation Central
- P Optimize Treatment Costs
- P Easy to Use



PRODUCT * EQUIPMENT * SERVICE * SUPPORT

For additional info or to schedule a demo, call 800.677.8097

RTV900

The utility vehicle that's built
as tough as a tractor.



Hard working, dependable and tough: the Kubota RTV900.

- 21.6 HP diesel engine - Designed by Kubota engineers
- Hydrostatic power steering - Handle tight turns with ease
- Variable Hydrostatic Transmission (VHT) - No belts. No maintenance. No loss of torque.
- Hydraulic wet disc brakes - Smooth braking, even in mud and water
- 4-wheel drive - Power through the roughest terrain
- Ground-hugging suspension - Fully independent front and semi-independent rear suspension
- 4 different models - General, worksite, turf and recreational

Tractor tough. Kubota smart.
Martin Implement, Inc.
16400 104th. Ave.
Orland Park, IL 60467
(708) 349-8430

Kubota

EVERYTHING YOU VALUE
www.kubota.com





It's all in the Details

Ted Soenksen, Wilmette Golf Course

Is winter detailing worth the extra time and effort? We in the Midwest or northern states with off-season "down time" should take advantage of the ability to tear aged equipment down to the bare bone when possible. I have had the opportunity to clean and detail a 6 year old Toro 3500D. It has been a trouble-free unit, cutting banks for an average 350 hours each season.

While following the manufacturer's periodic maintenance (PM) program and annual maintenance schedule you will find hidden areas that are not mentioned in any manual. Since these manuals are printed without the projected wear areas listed, we as technicians have to try to anticipate and find these areas that may cause havoc. While I was deep cleaning and detailing the traction unit, I was able to pinpoint wear points that I could never see during mid-season. One area I found through detailing the machine was:

The slide mechanism that allows the cutting units to move left to right. The bearing caps that support the entire lift of the cutting units are made of plastic and run on steel. After looking into this, I found there are no specifications or wear limits to these plastic bearing caps. I decided to see how much play this wear had caused the cutting units to move. With the cutting units off the machine and in the lift I was able to teeter the assembly over 1 1/2" in the furthest right position. Visually I could see the gaps between the bearing caps and the round steel axle!

Naturally I ordered a set of bearing caps and slides right away. Upon closer inspection I found the solid hydraulic tubing that is mounted on this assembly was very close to rubbing against traction unit frame because of the slop in the bearing cap slides.

I would have never seen this if we didn't take the time to strip and clean the unit. The dividends from a thorough cleaning and inspection translate to smooth operations during the growing season.



Fixes are Easy Once the Problem is Found

Glenn Peters, Sunset Ridge Country Club

We've all had them; the problem that leads us one way, when the real cause is something else.

Case in point: a 1991 Cushman with the Diahatsu engine.

The Problem: the engine starts, and runs, but acts as though is running out of fuel.

What I did: I checked the fuel supply, fuel filter, carburetor, and found nothing wrong. Next, I checked the ignition system, replaced breaker points, condenser, and checked the plug wires, but still had the same problem. I put the vehicle on the lift to check the plug wire again and noticed the wire loom on the right side of the vehicle sagging. I repositioned it to its proper place, put the vehicle down and tried to start it. The vehicle would start, but same problem – it would not stay running. I put the Cushman up on the lift again and decided to check the wire loom again.

Eventual Solution: I peeled back the covering to discover the wires had been cut by the frame of the vehicle. (See photos for location) The wire for the ignition run position broke when I put the loom back in its proper position. In addition, the wire to the carburetor fuel valve was grounding intermittently causing the hesitation and the perception that it was starved for fuel. The repair of the wiring was simple and corrected the problem completely. -OC



THE BULL SHEET

John Gurke, CGCS, Associate Editor



March 2008

The 14th of this month marks the deadline to fill out the GCSAA Pesticide Use Survey (which can be found at gcsaa.org). The fourth part of GCSAA's comprehensive Golf Course Environmental Profile Project, this survey can be completed online, and you can participate regardless of whether you completed the previously-released surveys. Funded by the Environmental Institute for Golf with a grant from the Toro Foundation, participation by GCSAA members is strongly encouraged, and all results will be strictly confidential. Participants will be entered in a drawing for a flat screen TV (a \$2,500 value) and seven \$250 gift cards (one per agronomic region), and will receive .50 service points on their transcripts, making it well worth the effort.

DATES TO REMEMBER

March 7 – Deadline for submitting presentation proposals for the 2009 GCSAA Education Conference and Golf Industry Show in New Orleans, LA on February 2 through 7.

March 12 – 4th Annual Ground Control Conference at Northern Illinois University's Hoffman Estates campus. For more information, call 262-250-9945 or email lauraj@ero-tex.net.

March 14 – Deadline for filling out the GCSAA Pesticide Use Survey (the follow-up to the Golf Course Profile, Water Use, and Nutrient Use surveys).

March 26-28 – 11th Annual Flower Expo in the Guangzhou Gymnasium in Guangzhou, China. In case you're in the neighborhood.

March 27 – Full-day seminar at Midwest Golf House featuring Dr. Jack Fry of Kansas State University, **Dr. Derek Settle** of CDGA, and **Dr. Randy Kane** of... Peoria. More information is available at magcs.org.

April 28 – MAGCS monthly meeting and season-opening golf event at White Eagle Golf Club, **Gilberto Velazquez** host.

May 12 – Annual ITF/MAGCS Spring Scramble at St. Charles Country Club in St. Charles, IL, **Jim Keith, CGCS** host.

In the "better late than never" category, MAGCS wishes a fond farewell and good fortune to **Phil Taylor**, who has left Burris Equipment Company and the Midwest on December 31st for Houston, Texas. Phil has joined Lubert Bros. who own and operate multiple Jacobsen distributorships in Texas, and will run the new Houston branch. Phil's and Marilyn's eldest son, wife and only grandchild reside in Corpus Christi, Texas, bringing the family much closer together. We wish Phil and his family all the best.



Phil Taylor

Also in December—on the 18th—an unfortunate sign of the times occurred in our midst. The Orchard Hills Golf Club in Waukegan ceased operations as a golf facility. Former superintendent **Bob McCallum, CGCS** reports that the property is tentatively slated to be utilized as sports turf, including soccer and baseball fields. This news comes on the heels of the recently-released report that 2007 was the second consecutive year in which nationwide golf course closings outpaced new course openings.

(continued on page 19)



**For courses that roll,
meet the mower that rocks.**



The new 2653B Trim and Surrounds Mower from John Deere.

Meet the mower that is completely in tune with today's courses. The 2653B features a new traction system which enables it to climb and mow mounds like never before. Operators of any size will enjoy the increased legroom. And servicing the 2653B just became a lot easier thanks to more on-board diagnostics and parts commonality with other Deere machines.


Ask to see the machine that is sure to strike a chord with you and your crew. The new 2653B. Call your John Deere distributor for a demo today.

JOHN DEERE GOLF & TURF
ONE SOURCE




www.JohnDeere.com

J. W. TURF, INC.
14 N 937 US HWY 20
HAMPSHIRE, IL 60140
(847) 683-4653



Phoenix
ENVIRONMENTAL CARE



For more about...

Pegasus™L, Pegasus DF, Firebird®GC,
Vital®, Kestrel®, Lucid™, Current™,
Knighthawk® & Symmetry™

Contact: Rick Grant at 317-776-9983
or visit www.phoenixenvcare.com

Pegasus, Knighthawk, Current and Symmetry are trademarks of Phoenix Environmental Care LLC. Vital is a registered trademark of Luxembourg-Pamol, Inc. Lucid is a trademark of Rotam USA. Firebird and Kestrel are registered trademarks of Phoenix Environmental Care LLC. Firebird GC is a Restricted Use Pesticide. Always read and follow label directions.



GrowinG Solutions, Inc.

"Solving The Water Quality Problems Of Our Customers."

- pH Control Of Irrigation Water
- Fertigation Injection Equipment
- Amiad Filtration Equipment
- Organic Sediment Removal From Ponds




- Water Fountains
- Aerators
- Water Falls

"Our solutions are your solution"

For Information, Sales or Service call 800-816-4041
www.yourgrowingsolutions.com

Another
Wild Goose Chase™



708.448.8878
www.wildgoosechasers.com

Time To Fly!


**Wild Goose Chase, Inc. Specializes in
Nuisance "Goose Management"**

We implement an integrated system that combines several techniques and services that minimize the destructive and negative effects of geese. We always put our customer's needs first and here are the ways we stand out:

- Trained Handlers
- Commercially Insured
- Supportive Hazing Techniques
- Site Specific Management Program
- Data Collection, Reporting, and Analysis
- Staff Biologist
- Licensed Personnel

**Email: WGCgoose@covad.net
www.wildgoosechasers.com**

**Who Can You Trust to
Provide
& Protect
Your Water Supply?**



Layne-Western

Complete Services for
High-Capacity Water Wells and Pump Stations

Source Development • Wells & Pumps • Maintenance
Aurora, IL: 630-897-6941 • Beecher, IL: 708-946-2244
www.laynechristensen.com

Congratulations go out to **Luke Baker**, former assistant superintendent at Park Ridge Country Club, who has accepted a position with Chicagoland Turf as sales representative for its Indiana territory.



Luke Baker

In completely unrelated news, **Joel Purpur, CGCS** has announced that the assistant superintendent's position at Park Ridge Country Club is open. Interested parties should call Joel at 847-823-8682.

Further congrats to **Andy Weadge**, who has taken the huge step of moving from his assistant's position at Black Sheep Golf Club to take on the golf course superintendent's responsibilities at Morris Country Club in Morris, IL as of February 1st.



Andy Weadge

In late January, BASF Crop Protection announced that it will provide limited access to its triticonazole fungicide to Bayer Environmental Science for US and Canadian turf and landscape ornamental uses (including golf turf use). Triticonazole is the active ingredient in BASF's Trinity fungicide, as well as in Bayer's new Chipco Triton.

In other news involving Bayer, **Scott Witte, CGCS** has a Purple Cow. A little explanation is probably needed here: In each issue of *Bayer Golf Advantage*, a superintendent who best discovers successful ways to communicate the importance of their practices and their profession to golfers and the public is awarded a Purple Cow (and 50,000 Accolades points to boot). Another bonus is that said superintendent gets to have his mug on the cover of said magazine, which Mr. Witte did (and in fine coif I must add). Congratulations to Scott and Cantigny Golf Club on this colorful achievement.

MAGCS offers its condolences to Life Member **Bill Leith** and his family on the loss of Bill's wife Della on January 26th. Bill was the long-time superintendent of Elgin Country Club, and an active MAGCS member for over 40 years.

MAGCS offers its condolences to **Dr. Hank Wilkinson** on the passing of his father William C. Wilkinson in January, as well as **John Meyer** on the passing of his father in December.

DHD Tree Products and **Dan Quast** recently introduced Matt Kinnard as their new sales representative. Matt hails from Rock River Hills Golf Club in Horicon, WI, and will bring a strong commitment of service to his customers and a vast knowledge of the products that DHD offers.

Toro and Reinders, Inc. recently announced that they are the first equipment and irrigation system suppliers to enter into a formal partnership with the Club Managers Association of America and the Club Foundation. The 5-year partnership is intended to support the CMAA and its members in their professional development, to keep in touch with the most pressing issues facing club managers, and to establish deeper relationships with industry leaders and their respective organizations to help drive growth and prosperity for all in the game and business of golf. So there you have it.

So I'm flying home from Orlando on Super Sunday, my plane is delightfully on time, I get a last-minute change of seat which lands me in the exit row and all the leg room that entails, our ETA will get me home and in my chair with 15 minutes to spare before kickoff (of what turned out to be one of the best Super Bowls EVER), and I am generally in a great mood, even contemplating purchasing a lottery ticket. Then something happens to put me in even better spirits (besides the drink cart coming by)—I take out the February issue of *United Hemispheres* and begin to flip through the pages when I stumble on an article called "Golf's Superheroes." I assume it's about caddies or beverage cart chicks until I read the first sentence, at which point I'm hooked. It says "Although architects are forever linked with the courses they design, golfers are beginning to recognize that the biggest VIP at any country club is its superintendent." This was in an airline magazine! After my obligatory gasp, I read the article, which described fairly accurately the world of the modern golf course superintendent and how it has changed from the days of "the glorified farmer" of decades ago. Recommended inspirational reading, and only 3 pages in length, so if you want to check it out, book a REAL short United flight—like to Kenosha.

GCSAA announced it can now offer full access to the Michigan State University's Turfgrass Information File (MSU and TGIF respectively) to all Class A members. TGIF is a searchable database presented in partnership with the Turfgrass Information Center through the MSU libraries, and covers the turfgrass industry with more than 125,000 searchable items for over 300 journals and magazines (this very one soon to be included), research reports and conference proceedings, extension bulletins and technical reports, and much more. Also, all classes of GCSAA members can search the online archive of

(continued on page 21)

Life is too short to Plant Small Trees



*If the question is trees...
the answer is GRO!*



HORTICULTURAL ENTERPRISES, INC.









14440 Marengo Road • Union, IL 60180 • 847-669-8658

RABINE PAVING

"DISCOVER THE DIFFERENCE"

888-722-4633

Residential Commerical Municipal

-  Driveways - Parking Lots - Roads
-  Asphalt Paving and Engineering
-  IDOT Pre-qualified
-  Asphalt Milling
-  Decorative Pavements
-  Infrared Pavement Repairs
-  Sealcoating and Striping
-  Snow Removal / Ice Control

**SERVING CHICAGO, ROCKFORD, ALL OF
NORTHERN IL & SOUTHERN WI**

www.rabinepaving.com

**REDUCE YOUR COSTS
BY
REDUCING YOUR
BENTGRASS FAIRWAYS
ONE ACRE A DAY!**

...ASK US HOW

Come see us in Orlando at the
Golf Industry Show

Booth #2972



**HUBER RANCH
SOD NURSERY INC.**

800.553.0552 SCHNEIDER, IN
www.hubersod.com

HOLLEMBEAK CONSTRUCTION INC.

SINCE 1969



*Ridge Country Club - Hole 13
Chicago, Illinois*



Golf Course Construction • Renovations • Bunkers
Clearing • Feature Grading • Shaping • Drainage
Tee and Green Construction • Cart Paths • Grassing
Shoreline Stabilization • Pond Construction and Dredging
Laser Tee Leveling • GPS Golf Course Mapping

P.O. BOX 103 • BIG ROCK, IL 60511 • 630-556-3891