



TETA Group Educational Seminar Hosted by the Russo Power Equipment Company

With 35 members in attendance, the Turf Equipment Technicians Association (TETA) March meeting was held at Russo's in Schiller Park. On behalf of TETA, thank you to Mr. Frank Russo for hosting us. I wish also to thank Tom Wahdier for arranging for all of the speakers.

The topics covered included power generator maintenance and troubleshooting, updates on the 3cylinder diesel engine produced by Briggs and Stratton, Redmax hand-held 2cycle power equipment, and many others.

Tom Zieman and associates from Midwest Engines Warehouse covered portable and stationary generators. Two test products were fired up for live demonstrations in trouble shooting and adjustments. One tip I thought I'd share with you is on checking engine rpms. The engine rpms on any generator should be at 3600 for full output to be reached. Power tools are also very sensitive to their required working voltage. Another quick tip: the horse power to wattage ratio is 2:1, meaning that if the job requires 4000 watts, the generator must have an 8hp rating at 3600 rpms.

Andy Kuczmar, Head of Education and Product Research and Development for the Red Max Company, graciously spent the afternoon session talking about the 2cycle theories that have evolved into today's hand-held power equipment. There is a lot more to consider than price and volume when purchasing multiple units such as line trimmers and backpack blowers. Andy covered today's demands on 2stroke engines as only he can.

Simple things, such as 2stroke lubricants that we all use every-day, are not so simple. It's not just oil in that little bottle. Approximately 30% of the container of 2 stroke mix is actual oil. The rest is the additive package designed by the manufacturer for their engines. Another strongly suggested tip was to use at least 89 octane unleaded fuel. High temperatures are the factors that demand more out of the fuel's additives. The lower octane gas does not have the additive package, even though the operator's manual may suggest using 87 octane. I always enjoy an educational session when Andy visits our group. Thank you Andy.

Throughout the day we were treated with hospitality and friendship by the Russo family and staff. As we were taken on a full tour of the entire facility by Frank Russo, we were encouraged to make comments to or ask questions of their sales and service staff along the way.

We were treated to a live demonstration of chainsaw wood carving, including a free raffle of one of the sculptures.

We look forward to more visits to Russo Power Equipment Company, in more ways than one. -OC



THE BULL SHEET

John Gurke, CGCS, Associate Editor



May 2008

DATES TO REMEMBER

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

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

June 10 – CAGCS monthly meeting at Ruth Lake Country Club, **Dan Marco, CGCS** host.

June 5 – Assistants Shop Talk at Arrowhead Golf Club in Wheaton, IL.

July 7 – John Buck Annual Scholarship outing at the Highlands of Elgin, **Brad Legnaioli** host.

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

July 24 – CAGCS monthly meeting at Exmoor Country Club, **Kurt Galisdorfer, CGCS** host.

MAGCS extends its warmest welcome to the following new members:

Scott Fischer – Arthur Hills/Steve Forrest Associates – Class E

Mike Green – Flowtronex – Class E

Grant Neff – George Dunne National – Class C

Arne Nordenson – Bittersweet Golf Club – Class A

Matt Reifert – Butler National Golf Club – Class C

Ryan Reuter – Willow Crest Golf Club – Class C

Mike Shiller – Olsen Distributing – Class E

Jim Wallace – Medinah Country Club – Class C

Mark your calendars for July 7th, when the Annual John Buck Scholarship Outing hits town at the Highlands of Elgin (Brad Legnaioli host). This always-fun day raises funds for 2 scholarships in the late John Buck's name—one for the MAGCS scholarship fund (which, by the way, will offer a total of 3 \$2,000 scholarships this year) and one for the Kane County Farm Bureau's fund. It also is a day full of fun and good eats. Contact your JW Turf rep for details.

Congratulations to **Tom Lively, CGCS** who began a new chapter in his career on March 31st when he took over as golf course superintendent at the Tournament Players Club (TPC) San Antonio. Tom's new gig is a 36-hole facility on 2,800 acres of Texas hill country which is slated for a 2010 opening. The AT&T Canyons course designed by Pete Dye (paired with Bruce Lietzke) and the AT&T Oaks course designed by Greg Norman (with Sergio Garcia) will have the infrastructure to host PGA Tour events, and will position San Antonio as a premiere golf destination (I personally think it will be Tom's

work that will bring the golfing world to San Antonio). Although we will all miss Tom around these parts, it certainly looks as if he has found a plum. Best of luck, Tom!



Tom Lively, CGCS

Also on the move is **Dustin Hugen**, former assistant at Indian Hill Club who has accepted the golf course superintendent's position at Poplar Creek Country Club. Congratulations and good luck to you on this huge step, Dustin.

(continued on page 25)



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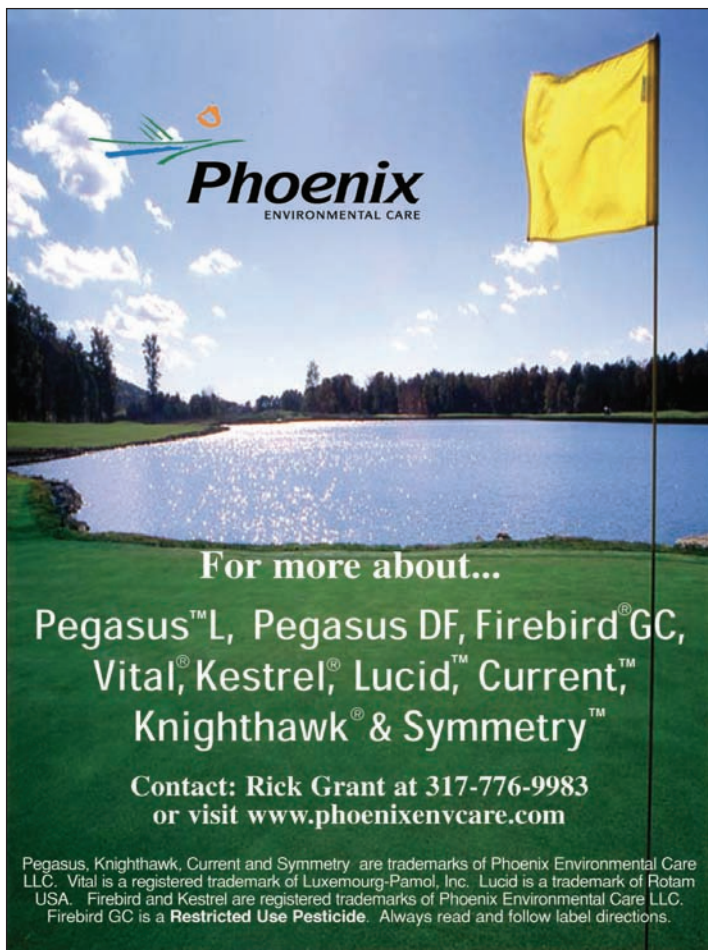
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Dr. Joe Duich, world-renowned turfgrass authority and mentor to hundreds if not thousands of golf course superintendents has another feather for his Nittany Lion cap—he is the recipient of the Reed C. Funk Award. The award, presented by the Turfgrass Breeders Association, is named after the famed professor of plant science at Rutgers University, and recognizes its 4th recipient for his dedication to turfgrass breeding and his impact on education worldwide.

Reinders, Inc. recently announced two additions to its sales staff. **Tim Keating** and **Bruce Woehrle** have joined the Elm Grove, Wisconsin-based company and will oversee sales in the Chicagoland market. Congratulations, Tim and Bruce!

Great news from **Josh Murray**, former assistant at Cantigny Golf Club and currently the Maintenance Director for Nilco Landscaping. Josh and his wife Tanya celebrated the birth of a baby girl on March 18th. Ava Marie was 6 lbs., 8 ozs., and 18" long. Congratulations, Murray family!



Josh and Tanya Murray

In the "Who'da Thunk It" category, MAGCS has itself a new published author. **Mark Gilmour** of JW Turf is the proud papa of Our Days in a Daze—The Most Entertaining and Educational Book Ever Written on Hog Roasting, which he co-wrote with longtime friend and fellow pig guy Bob Myers. Call Mark for your autographed copy, as it could very well have an anecdote about an event he has catered that you have attended. Good reading, fun stories.

MAGCS offers its deepest sympathies to **Sharon Riesenbeck** and her family on the passing of her father on April 5th.

The MAGCS/ITF Spring Golf Day will be held at St. Charles Country Club on May 12th, with Jim Keith, CGCS serving as host. This event will be a tad different from all past Golf Days, as it will be the only ITF/MAGCS collaboration of the season as opposed to the usual two events. This allows ITF to focus all of its efforts on this one event, making it bigger and better than before. The fall event—the College Scramble—will be a MAGCS event and will still be held at Joliet Country Club with **Mark Kowaliczko** hosting.

John Deere Credit is looking for the most Beautifully Brutal Golf Holes in North America to feature on a special contest web site and in various national and local media. Deadline for nominations of par 4 holes is May 15th, and July 15th for par 3's. Go to www.JohnDeereCredit.com/BrutalGolfHoles and click on the "Enter Contest Here" tab to nominate your brutal hole. There's a really good joke in there somewhere, but it's best left alone.

Great job by everyone involved in the March 27th MAGCS monthly meeting and seminar at Midwest Golf House. The education lineup, featuring Drs. Jack Fry, **Derek Settle**, **Randy Kane**, and USGA's **Ty McClellan** was both excellent and informative. Look for **Chuck Anfield's** wrap-up of the day's education in this issue.

(continued on page 27)



The education foursome for the March Meeting: (L to R) Drs. Jack Fry, Randy Kane, Derek Settle and Mr. Ty McClellan.

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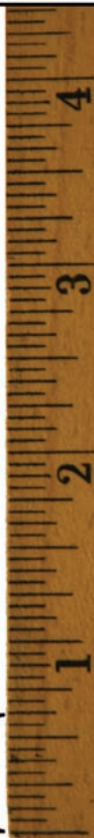
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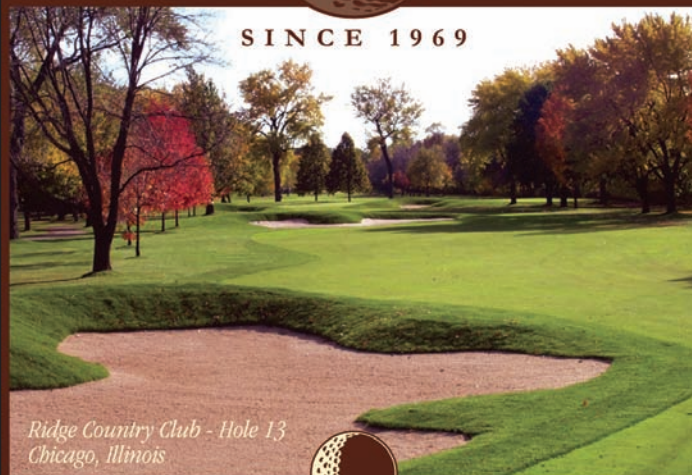


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Brad Helms mowed his greens higher than 0.125" - at the March meeting and he lived to tell about it.



Al Fierst and Mike Sauls talk a little shop at one of the breaks during the March Meeting.

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 We'd like to thank our generous sponsors of the April 28th monthly meeting at White Eagle Golf Club as well as our host facility and superintendent **Gilberto Velazquez**. The day's sponsors were: **Nadler Golf Car Sales, Inc., JW Turf/John Deere Golf, BTSI, Arthur Clesen, Inc., Palatine Oil Company, Reinders, Inc., and Chicagoland Turf**. Thank you everyone!

(continued on page 28)

More MAGCS on the go—**Joe Meier** has accepted a position as sales representative for ProSource One. Congratulations Joe.

On June 3rd, the USGA Museum and Arnold Palmer Center for Golf History will open its doors after a 3-year renovation and expansion project. A full day of activities is planned, and the event is open to all USGA members (who happen to be in Far Hills, NY at the time). Visit www.usga.org/aboutus/museum/museum_index.html for more information.

The 2nd Annual Green Golfer Challenge is officially underway. Audubon International invites golf courses worldwide to take part by building golfers' environmental awareness by having them pledge to become an Audubon Green Golfer and support environmental stewardship actions while playing the game. Go to www.golfandenvironment.org to learn more and to register.

Have you heard the news? We—as in GCSAA—finally have a new chief executive officer. Mark Woodward, CGCS, the president of GCSAA in 2004 and most recently the golf operations manager for the City of San Diego, CA has been given the responsibility of leading our national organization into the future. Mark will begin his duties on July 1st after completion of the US Open at Torrey Pines (a course he oversees) in June.

And more still MAGCS members on the move—**Jay Hensley**, formerly at Twin Orchard Country Club, has been named Account Manager for Turf Sales in the North territory for Burris Equipment Company. Congratulations and good luck to you Jay.



Jay Hensley

The April 13th Chicago Tribune Magazine section of the Sunday Trib, called the Golf Issue, had a nice surprise inside. The article "Architects of your fate" featured 3 of our area's most prominent golf course architects as well as golf construction legend Brent Wadsworth. MAGCS members **Rick Jacobson**, **Bob Lohmann**, and **Greg Martin** were all asked their views on the state of the game and its future in a well-crafted article that was really quite informative, deftly answering the query it poses at its onset: "How do course designers put that hazard exactly where your ball lands?"

That was the Good of golf course architecture. The Bad and the Ugly were found in the unlikeliest of places—in Delta Airlines' Sky magazine. In an article titled "The Art of Golf," French golf course architect Robert Berthet's designs are featured, including these gems: Golf de Macon la Salle in the Burgundy region whose holes are depictions of various female anatomy parts; Digne la Lavande—a renowned mecca of paleontology—where fairways are shaped like bones and bunkers resemble gigantic fossils; and Cap Skirring Golf Course in Senegal where fairways crest and roll like waves and bunkers conjure splashes of foamy surf. He also has some interesting ideas on his drawing board, including an agricultural links which will integrate the patchwork terrain of a farm, integrating fairways and greens with orchards, fields of crops, and meadows with grazing sheep that double as hazards; and a "butterfly course" where the clubhouse would be the body of the insect and the holes would spread out from there like wings, the round greens being the ocelli, or eyespots. Ah, those nutty French.

If you've ever gone through one of those rough stretches where absolutely NOTHING is going right, relax—after reading the *Golf Course Industry* article "Jumping in with two feet" about **Scott White's** trials and tribulations at Mauh-Nah-Tee-See Country Club after becoming its superintendent in July of 2007, your problems might not seem so bad. The story was reminiscent of a biblical epic, complete with floods, ice, pestilence, and maybe even a little famine to boot. Sometimes being able to read about other people's hardships and how they deal with them can help put a positive spin on the bad things that happen to us, and help us put some perspective back into our lives. Thanks for sharing your story, Scott.

Another sad item to pass along—longtime MAGCS member Phil Bersin died in Chicago on March 23rd. Phil was the golf course superintendent at Carriage Greens Country Club in Darien for 30 years. Our condolences to Phil's family.

Carl Spackler and Spalding—thirty years later. The years have been unkind to them.



Spalding played by Bob Kohlstedt

Beware of that guy you hired to dive for golf balls in your ponds, especially if your ponds start looking cleaner after he leaves. One such guy, a William Lamar Stoner (they're always bad if they have three names, aren't they?), was recently charged by a federal grand jury with illegally transporting Asian grass carp across state lines so he could put them into the ponds he was diving in order to make his job easier. The fish are voracious eaters, able to wipe out all traces of vegetation—"Think of an underwater cow," said Mike Freeze, owner of Keo Fish Farm in Arkansas. He had released the fish in numerous of his clients' ponds, some of which had protected plant species that were eaten. Oops.


-OC



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EDUCATION RECAP

Charles Anfield, CGCS, *Heritage Bluffs Public Golf Club*



The March meeting for the MAGCS was held (luckily) indoors at the CDGA Golf House.

Despite continuous snow showers throughout the day, the show went on. Those of you who have been to this facility know how nice it is for educational presentations. For those of you that have not been there, you need to check it out. We are very fortunate to have such a venue at our disposal.

The day started out with a presentation by Jack Fry from Kansas State on, appropriately enough, Freezing Stress. Some of his key points were:

- All turfgrasses can tolerate some exposure to freezing temperatures. The extent of whether freezing causes injury depends on:
- Physiological condition of the plant
- Freezing and thawing rate
- Minimum temperature
- Duration of exposure

During freezing weather (unless you grow grass in a dome) many factors are out of our control. What we can control is how we prepare our plants going into a freezing period.

To minimize freezing injury:

- Avoid compacted or soggy soils in fall – install drainage
- Avoid excessive fall applications of nitrogen
- Avoid K deficiency
- Use Mulching or sand topdressing to protect the crown
- Use Higher mowing heights

Next, Ty McClellan from the USGA Green Section took the stage to discuss an age old problem: Ball Mark Repair.

To summarize his presentation: "It's not the arrow, t's the Indian".

There is no "best" ball repair tool. The key is in the technique of pushing in the sides and or pushing and twisting toward the center. The real damage to the roots is caused by popping up the center of the ball mark and disrupting the root system. Interestingly enough, research has shown improper ball mark repair will heal faster than no repair at all. Other factors involved in turf recovery are both the turf variety and the overall health of the plants.

Jack Fry came back on stage to make a presentation on Shade Stress.

Light quality and quantity can be measured. Both are factors in the anatomical, morphological and physiological growth and development of the plant.

Typically, low light conditions create a plant that has a thinner, narrower leaf with fewer chloroplasts with less overall density and a more upright growth pattern. In addition, the plant tends to have a lower respiration rate, lower transpiration rate, greater succulence and lower carbohydrate reserves. In summary a "weaker" plant than one grown in full sun that is less capable of handling traffic, disease, drought, insect pressure, and other stresses placed upon it.

Most shaded sites or microclimates have other factors that contribute to plant failure.

These are:

- Less air movement
- Higher humidity
- Longer periods of dew
- Moderated temperature extremes
- Higher CO₂ levels

Solutions to the problem other than the obvious and necessary chain saw job are:

- Document the problem
- Choose varieties that are shade tolerant
- Mow higher
- Lower N fertility, higher K and Fe
- Irrigation – less quantity and frequency
- Aerification – improve drainage and compaction
- Fungicides – more frequent or as needed
- Use of growth regulators to control canopy vertical growth and improving quality

Derek Settle's presentation was on his research with Moss Control.

He recommends investigating why you have a chronic problem. Do you have adequate fertility? Are your mowing heights too low?

- Multiple strategies can be used to control moss
- No strategy was capable of eliminating moss
- Moss strategies should be timed when moss is actively growing spring and fall, and may not be necessary mid summer
- Baking soda, spot applied, twice in the spring can effectively suppress moss all season
- Chlorothalonil alone or in combination with other contact fungicides can suppress moss, but requires at least three sequential applications every 14 days
- Spring and fall applications of Quicksilver at 6 oz/A (four total) can effectively suppress moss without adverse effects to bentgrass health.