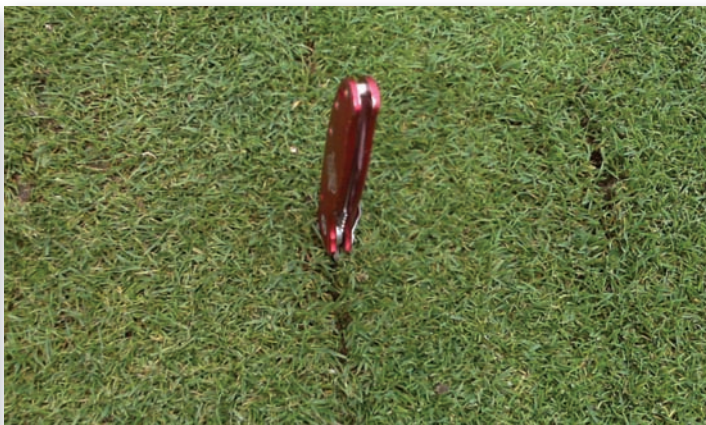


correcting years of compaction, these tools go in deeper and deeper with less and less surface disruption.

I would further suggest that slicing type aerifiers can be used year-round to maintain cart path ends and traffic areas. The benefits of regular use include avenues to keep causal water off the surface. This lessens the amount of physical damage done by players, carts, and maintenance equipment, which allows the turf to stay healthy and full.

Our budgets presently require us to use the tired old phrase "thinking outside the box." Ironically enough, it is outside the norm where we have observed the greatest improvement in green and soil profiles. These ideas are simple.

They are well proven not only to save money, but also to improve playing conditions. They are corrective in their approach, as opposed to being the same old effort we do every year. Simple tools and simple sugars and carbons are improving profiles while providing lasting results and conserving precious budget dollars once wasted on PTOs and diesel fuel. It was Albert Einstein who defined insanity as "doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results." Let's let the present economic environment challenge us to be more corrective in our cultural practices, and maybe we will all maintain our insanity until better times return. **-OC**



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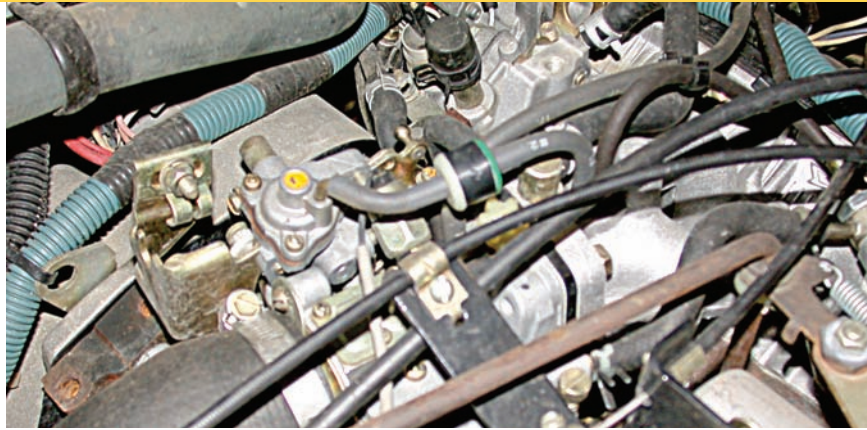
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The Tough Repairs

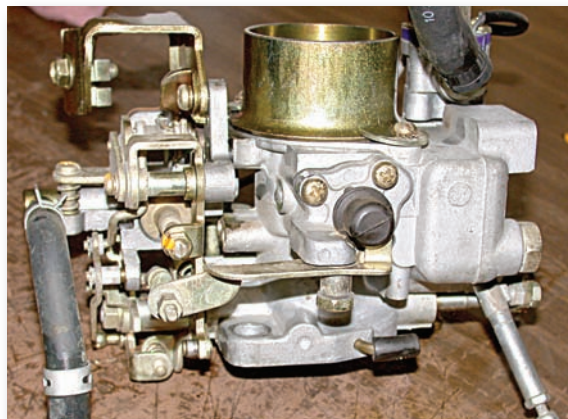
We have all been faced with those repairs that baffle the mind and leave us cursing the sadistic engineer that put us in this position. I have seen this type of frustration more times than I can tell you and have had it happen to me more than I care to admit. I can tell you there is no silver bullet to get you out of these frustrating situations, but there are a few things that I have found to help.

The number one thing is to get all of the information you can about the problem. My shop technicians typically struggle when the description of the problem is just not telling them enough. The person that gave us the equipment tells us that the reels won't go up, the reels won't go down, the unit dies or the like, but unless the reason for the malfunction is right in front of you, many times this explanation does not help. When this is the case, we need to talk to the operator and ask leading questions that get us closer to discovering the cause of the problem. I use questions like:

- Does it happen all of the time or is it intermittent?
- Does it happen more when the unit is hot or cold?
- When did the problem start?

These are just a few of the questions I ask, but you get the point. Any more information can speed the repair and cut your time in half.

The second most helpful item I have found is a good copier. I know it sounds strange, how can a copier help me? Well, when the problem is electrical or hydraulic, I make copies of the schematics for the systems and also the logic chart. I begin by highlighting the circuit that can make this failure happen and start testing at the end of the circuit. For every component I test, I put a mark on that component with a pen telling me if the component tested OK. This way, I do not revisit it and waste my time.



The third tip I have is to help you speed the decision on which system is causing the problem. Most of the hard problems come when we have multiple possible systems to examine. The most common frustrating repairs come with the possibility of the problem being either hydraulic or electrical. The best thing that you can do here is to start at the end of the circuit and test there first. This will tell you if you are on the right track or if you need to test a different system. I prefer to test electrical first. This is because hydraulic testing is usually messy and takes a long time, while electrical is usually easy to test and diagnose.

When you have determined that you have located the correct system, the last tip I have may save you time. If you start at the end of the system and determine that the problem is before this point, use the schematic you copied earlier to cut the system in half and test again. By cutting the system in half a few times, you will find the problem faster than if you start at one end and test component by component forward or in reverse.

The bad news is that there will always be those tough repairs that frustrate us consume more time than we want. I hope these simple tips will allow more time to do the things that make your golf course the greatest show on turf.

Jerry Kienast is the Service Manager for Reinders. **-OC**

THE BULL SHEET

John Gurke, CGCS, Associate Editor



February 2009

DATES TO REMEMBER

February 1-3 – GCSAA National Championship and Golf Classic in Gulf Shores, Alabama.

February 2-7 – GCSAA Education Conference and Golf Industry Show in New Orleans, Louisiana.

February 16 – Final deadline for nominations for TurfNet's 2008 Technician of the Year presented by Foley United.

February 17 – Class C Winter Workshop at Midwest Golf House.

February 25 – MAGCS computer training seminar at the College of DuPage.

March 3 & 4 – Reinders Spring Service School/Sprayer Calibration at Reinders in Franklin Park, IL.

March 7 – CDGA Directors Workshop at Medinah Country Club, **Curtis Tyrrell, CGCS** host.

March 11 – CAGCS' Chicagoland Forum at Naperville Country Club, **Tim Anderson, CGCS** host.

March 11-12 – Reinders 19th Turf & Irrigation Conference at the Waukesha Expo Center in suburban Milwaukee, WI.

March 15 – Deadline for the Par Aide Joseph S. Garkse Collegiate Grant application.

March 25 – MAGCS monthly meeting at Midwest Golf House, **Dr. Derek Settle** host.

March 31 – Deadline for GCSAA's Student Essay Contest.

A friendly greeting and welcome goes out to the newest members of the Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents:

Michael Bremmer—Class C, Brynwood Country Club.

David Jacobson—Class E, NewStream Golf.

Carl McPherson—Class A, Twin Orchard Country Club.

Michael Vandevelde—Class C, Stonewall Orchard Golf Club.

Congratulations to TETA (Turf Equipment Technicians Association) on its 25th Anniversary.

Make plans to attend the 2 upcoming MAGCS events later this month. The Class C Winter Workshop (which is open to all MAGCS members) takes place on the 17th, and will feature GCSAA's Lyne Tumlinson and Penny Mitchell in the morning session, covering employee/employer trends and certification respectively; and staging a roundtable discussion involving 3 alternative industry professionals in the afternoon session. Travis Stephen, the GM of the Rockford Riverhawks; Eric Atkins, Director of Grounds at Toyota Park; and Eddie Sagen, Facilities and Systems Manager for McDonalds Corporation will engage us with their experiences in these related fields. On the 25th, **Luke Cella** will instruct the first 24 members who sign up for his computer training seminar at the College of DuPage's computer room. The class will cover Microsoft Excel in the morning, followed by tutorials in Outlook and Internet Explorer in the afternoon.

Reinders, Inc. will be hosting its Spring Service School at the Franklin Park location (3816 Carnation Street) on March 3rd

and again on the 4th. Originally scheduled for the 4th, the class filled up so fast that a second day was added. The school will focus on sprayer calibration, and will be presented by Brian Hedges. For information, contact Terri Ludviksen at 847-678-5555, or by email at tludviksen@reinders.com

On the 11th of this month, Tim Anderson and Naperville Country Club will once again serve as host for the 24th Annual

(continued on page 16)



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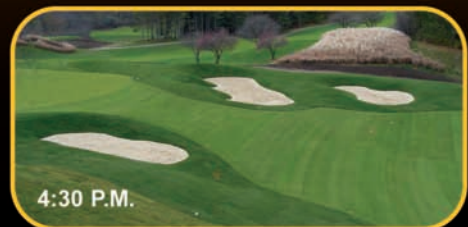
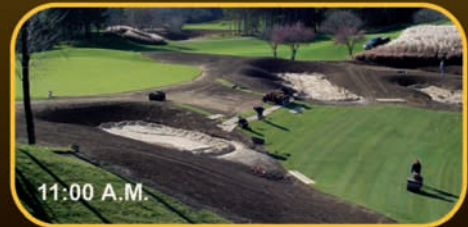
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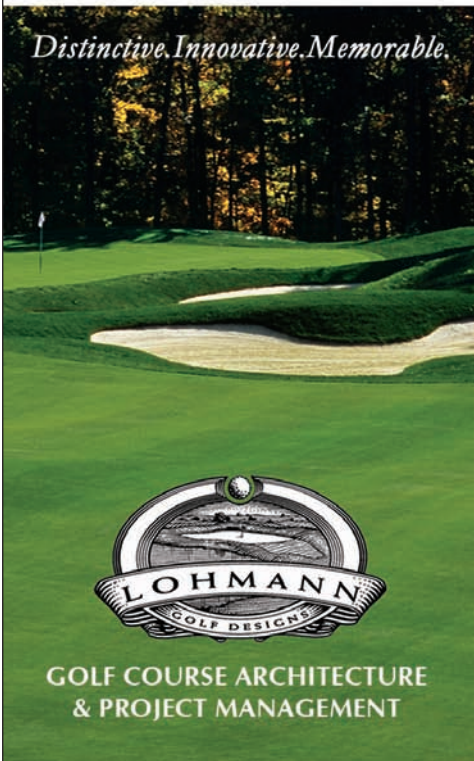


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Chicagoland Association of Golf Course Superintendents 2009 Forum. The theme for the day is "Manage Your Career and Your Golf Course," and will feature a variety of renowned speakers and topics. GCSAA Education Points will be awarded for attendance—contact Tim for reservations at 630-420-9662.

Another popular annual event takes place this month on the 11th and 12th—the Reinders 19th Turf & Irrigation Conference in suburban Milwaukee at the Waukesha Expo Center. This 2-day event, billed as "Think Green. Be Green. Save Green" will feature more than 40 seminars from a plethora of the industry's most respected luminaries. Among the list of speakers is Dr. Bruce Branham (University of Illinois), Dr. Joe Vargas (Michigan State University), Dr. Roch Gaussoin (University of Nebraska), and Dr. Bruce Clarke (Rutgers University) to name but a few.



Dr. Roch Gaussoin



Dr. Bruce Clarke

Among the topics covered will be Sustainability in Today's Golf Environment, Improved Irrigation Efficiency Through Rotors, New Solutions for Bunker Irrigation, and Proper Maintenance of Golf Course Pump Stations. Along with the fine education program, there is also a trade show with over 85 industry manufacturers exhibiting, as well as a chance to win some great prizes. As an added bonus, GCSAA has approved .80 Education Points for all attendees. And don't miss the daily fresh homemade donuts or the "Longjohns Fashion Show" they have in store. You can go to www.reinders.com to register—if you do so by March 2nd, the price is only \$39 (after that it's \$49, which is still a bargain for all you get. For more information, contact Tom Rowe at 262-786-3305, ext. 287 or email him at trowe@reinders.com.

The members of MAGCS send their heartfelt condolences to **Ed Fischer, CGCS**, his wife Jan and their family on the passing of Ed's father Bill Fischer in December.

Best of luck to **Brian Kimbrough** (River Forest CC) and his hound dog Rusty who will find out at this month's Golf Industry Show whether Rusty is Lebanon Turf and Golfdom's Dog of the Year. If Rusty does take top honors, Lebanon will donate \$2,000 to the MAGCS Scholarship Fund. Check out Rusty in the 2009 Dog Days of Golf calendar's July portion.

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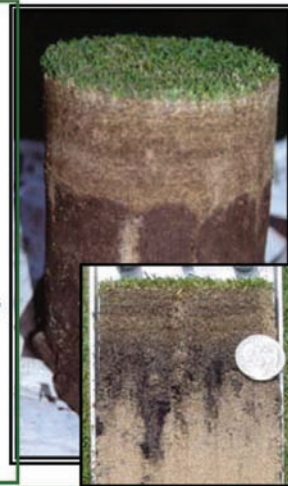


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Rusty

Country Club where **Sam MacKenzie, CGCS** hosted the third leg of the tour and the best part of the day—lunch. Thanks to all who attended, and to the three gracious hosts for an informative and entertaining day.



Keith Peterson



Dave Ward



Olympia Fields Country Club

.....
GCSAA reminds all members that it offers Information Packets which provide valuable information on countless topics related to our industry. These packets are compilations of articles that deal with each topic in question gathered from such professional publications as GCM, USGA Green Section, and chapter publications. The newest packet offered is the Economic Survival Kit, which details strategies and tips for superintendents who are dealing with budget cuts during the economic downturn. All packets are available online at www.gcsaa.org.
.....

Also from GCSAA, there are 2 opportunities coming up in March to obtain some financial assistance for your college-bound children. Par Aide's Joseph S. Garske Collegiate Grant offers educational aid to children and step-children of GCSAA members with awards of \$2,500 administered by the Environmental Institute for Golf. The deadline for applications is March 15th. Also, GCSAA's Student Essay Contest awards prizes of \$2,000, \$1,500, and \$1,000 respectively for first through third place to students pursuing degrees in turfgrass science, agronomy, or any field related to golf course management. The deadline is March 31st. Go to www.gcsaa.org for information, criteria, and rules.
.....

Congratulations to **Dan Dinelli, CGCS** (North Shore CC) for passing the International Society of Arboriculture's Illinois Certified Arborist examination recently. The purpose of the certification program is to improve the level of knowledge and standard of practice within the tree care profession, and Dan feels that certification will add a comfort level amongst club members as North Shore tackles several upcoming issues including a tree reduction program and the arrival of the Emerald Ash Borer.
.....

The Annual Chicagoland Shop Tour took place last month on the 15th down on the south side. This event is a winter favorite for superintendents, assistants, technicians and crew members alike. This year's tour, sponsored by CAGCS took us to Beverly Country Club and **Keith Peterson's** shop, followed by a trip to **Dave Ward's** facility at Coyote Run Golf Course in Flossmoor, and finishing at Olympia Fields

.....
Another annual favorite took place last month as well—the 5th Annual TETA Vendor Day was held on January 13th at High PSI, Ltd.'s Glendale Heights facility with **Tim Layden** hosting. This event allows for vendors to showcase their products and/or services in front of their customers, while also encouraging one-on-one dialogues between technicians and vendors. Thank you to Tim and High PSI, as well as to all MAGCS member vendors who participated in making the day a success.
.....

Belated thanks to **Gary Hearn** and Salt Creek Golf Course, and Mary Jo Pogue and Top Golf for hosting the Annual West Side Holiday Party in December (see January's Bull Sheet for the photos). The day was perfect, from the food and beverage service overseen by manager Eleni Hasapis right through to the games and fun over at Top Golf. Great job everyone!
.....

Kudos and thanks to the folks at Golf Course Industry magazine for their forward thinking in presenting live broadcasts from the Golf Industry Show in New Orleans. In an effort to bring the show home to the many people who could not attend this year, the editorial staff at GCI, including the ever-bubbly Pat Jones conducted live interviews with "the people you know and the people you

(continued on next page)

want to know" direct from the trade show floor on Thursday the 5th and Friday the 6th. Hopefully those of us who were unable to attend were at least able to sneak a peak through your computers via www.golfcourseindustry.com.

Now for a bit of a nostalgic turn—this is the 1944 catalog from Paul E. Burdett, the father of Jim who began his golf course supply business way back in the day. Aside from the really scary chemicals for sale (with names like Magi-Kill Jelly, Dolco NoMole, Dow Arsenate of Lead and Calcium Arsenate, and Lawn Sinox which was labeled for the control of brown patch, dollar spot, earthworms, cutworms, chickweed, knotweed, and dandelion), it also had some really interesting tools for sale. Check out the McClain Hydro-Mixer—technology at its finest!

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In related news, a guy who is old enough to have actually used the above catalog to buy his Lawn Sinox and Arsenate of Lead recently was heard from. **Fred Opperman, CGCS** the past MAGCS president and editor of this publication who retired to Montana has been keeping busy lately. If you read this column regularly or attended a MAGCS Turf Clinic at Medinah in the 80's or 90's, you've heard of Fred's exploits in the past, which include hiking through New Zealand, trekking over glaciers, building Habitat for Humanity (HFH) homes, fending off ferocious mountain lions with only a magnifying glass and a roll of duct tape (is there anything it CAN'T do?), and other such adventures. This past year, along with his work with HFH, Fred took on the role of Landscape Contractor at his church, supervising the design and installation of a complete landscape using only volunteers as the labor force. Over 1,600 plants went in the ground (all green side up I'm told), tons of washed rock for the parking islands, yards and yards of mulch for the foundation plantings, about an acre of sod, and 12 acres of dryland seeding and grading. The job was finally completed in late summer, and all went swimmingly except for Fred's missing his weekly hikes, canoe trips and fishing excursions. He also mentions that 2 premiere ski areas—Bridger Bowl and Big Sky—are virtually in his back yard, so any skiers or outdoorsmen should give a call and come on out before his beard gets too gray to allow him to lead any snowshoe trips into Yellowstone or the local mountains. You know, the more I think of it, Fred and duct tape are synonymous—they both are incredibly versatile, they both have an affinity for the

color silver (although white duct tape might more closely resemble Fred's hair), and they both share that "stick-to-it-iveness" trait that has made them both a prominent part in the lives of golf course superintendents in the Midwest.



Fred Opperman

Here's another blast from the past that recently resurfaced—a photo from 1994 of this foursome before teeing it up at a MAGCS monthly event. From left to right are **Keith Johnson, CGCS** (who it appears is wearing a 1970's-vintage Houston Astros rainbow jersey), **Gary Hearn** (whose excessively large hat was probably holding all that hair he had back then), **Roger Johnson** (long before the Bucket List premiered, the bucket hat was quite the fashion statement),

(continued on next page)

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and Paul Burger (who has not changed one bit, from the hair right on down to the shoes).



L-R: Keith Johnson, Gary Hearn, Roger Johnson and Paul Burger

Congratulations to MAGCS members **Joseph F. Dinelli, Sr.** and **Paul Voykin** on achieving the milestone of becoming GCSAA 51-plus year members this year.

Sixty years ago this month, the *Bull Sheet* and president Melvin Warnecke reported that the national turf conference would be held in Los Angeles, California, and that a detour through the Pacific Northwest would be a great way to see this picturesque area of the country. Fares on the Milwaukee Road's "super streamliner" the Olympian Hiawatha for the 2,200 mile, 45-hour trip were as follows:

Touralux Lower Berth	\$12.20
Touralux Upper Berth	\$9.25
First Class Lower Berth	\$18.25
First Class Upper Berth	\$13.90
(Now it starts getting really expensive)	
Roomette, 1 Passenger	\$25.25
Roomette, 2 Passengers	\$29.15
Bedroom, 1 Passenger	\$34.70
Bedroom, 2 Passengers	\$40.15
Compartment, 1 Passenger	\$41.05
Compartment, 2 Passengers	\$51.45
Drawing Room, 1 Passenger	\$54.75
Drawing Room, 2 Passengers	A whopping \$69.40



Fifty years ago this month in *Bull Sheet*, the 205 members of MAGCS learned that Peter Voykin of Idlewild CC had become a new father to Mark Andrew Voykin; Charlie Shultz

of Ruth Lake CC reported that his halfway house had been broken into twice, and was finally burned down just before Christmas; Bob Williams had just finished his tenure as president of the National Golf Course Superintendents Association (precursor to GCSAA); and Roy Nelson of Ravisloe CC related that they had removed 200 trees in the rough so that he could better maintain these areas (See? This tree removal thing isn't anything new after all).

20 years ago this month, the 500th issue of *Bull Sheet* hit the presses. Also, **Dave Blumquist** (that's how they spelled it back then) did an article on the newfangled idea of light-weight fairway mowing; and John Turner had been elected president of ITF. Also announced is the issue were the births of Kailey Ann Purpur (Joel and Debbie) and David Williams (Bruce and Roxanne).

10 years ago this month, editor Fred Opperman announced that he and his wife Judy were "changing directions," and moving to Montana. **-OC**

CLASSIFIEDS

If you are in the market for used equipment that is available locally, check out the magcs.org web site's new classified listing.

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1995 Toro Hydro-Ject with trailer\$4,000
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