

Bob O' Link Golf Club

From Indian Hill, we traveled to Highland Park for our next shop visit at Bob O' Link Golf Club. **Rick Bowden** hosted us in his facility. Bob O' Link also featured a comfortable older building. As every superintendent has a tendency to wish for, Rick stated he would like more room to store equipment. There is a lot of history at Bob O' Link and it shows in the maintenance facility. Legends of the Industry like Bob and Bruce Williams manned the helm prior to Rick. The craftsmanship of wood-working is amazing. If you have ever seen the tee benches, you know what I speak of with the thick coating of sparr varnish on each board. The lunch table in their shop is equally as impressive and massive.



Bob O' Link host Rick Bowden shows off his new "skunk skin" cap.



Part of Rick's one of kind collection of broken golf club shafts courtesy of "Da Coach". There were at least three dozen shafts on display bearing Coach Ditka's name.

Lake Shore Country Club

Our final stop of the day was Lake Shore County Club with our host and lunch provider, **Jeff Frentz, CGCS**. The Lake Shore facility was large, well lit and heated throughout. There is plenty of room to work as well as ample storage space. Lunch at the end of the tour consisted of mostaccioli, fried, chicken, cole slaw and pizza. There was plenty of food and no one went away hungry. Thank you to our three gracious hosts for cleaning their shops for us, and to everyone in attendance.



Lake Shore's well lit shop only took one day to clean up before the guests arrived. (above and below)



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THE BULL SHEET

John Gurke, CGCS, Associate Editor



February 2010

DATES TO REMEMBER

February 5-7 – GCSAA National Championship and Golf Classic in Palm Springs, CA.

February 8-12 – 2010 GCSAA Education Conference in conjunction with the Golf Industry Show in San Diego, CA.

February 10 – MAGCS Hospitality Reception at the Hotel Solamar in San Diego, CA.

February 16-17 – Gateway Green Industry Conference & Trade Show at the Gateway Center in Collinsville, IL.

February 19 – Deadline to nominate your equipment technician for TurfNet's Technician of the Year Award.

February 24 – 2010 MAGCS Class C Winter Workshop at Midwest Golf House in Lemont, IL.

March 6-14 – Chicago Flower & Garden Show at Navy Pier in Chicago, IL.

March 16 – MAGCS monthly meeting at Midwest Golf House in Lemont, IL.

March 18-20 – International Golf Course Equipment Manufacturers Association's Virtual Trade Show at your favorite internet-connected computer.

April 27 – MAGCS monthly meeting at Joliet Country Club, **Mark Kowaliczko** host.

Haven't had to do this for a couple years, but as a reminder, PLEASE TURN YOUR CELL PHONE TO VIBRATE (or better yet, shut it off) during MAGCS education sessions. It's tough enough to get up in front of a room full of people and deliver a message without the constant sound of all those clever ringtones. Like Frank Dobie—a man who has been in the golf business for 49 years—says, common courtesy and proper etiquette in one's treatment of others are just as important, if not more, than one's grass-growing ability. Dobie, the general manager and superintendent of the Sharon Golf Club in Ohio said this during a recent address he made at the Ohio Turfgrass Foundation's annual conference, citing advice **Bob Williams** gave him in 1959. Williams, a past president of both MAGCS and GCSAA told young Frank that "Ninety percent of what we need to know to be successful in this business is not about growing grass." So again, please be courteous and mindful of our speakers.

Congratulations and best wishes to **Scott Verdun**, former Class C Representative and assistant superintendent at Merit Club who on January 18th took over as golf course superintendent at Kenosha Country Club in southeastern Wisconsin. With this move, Scott has resigned his position on the MAGCS board as Class C Advisor—a resignation he has probably looked forward to for some time!

Along with Scott Verdun's departure from the board comes word that **Sharon Riesenbeck** and **Harry Lovero** have resigned from the MAGCS board also. Due to her increased

responsibilities at Waupaca, Sharon has opted to resign her post as Class E Commercial Advisor after 5 years of invaluable service. Sharon's most recent contribution—a thankless and tireless one—was arranging yet another stellar Hospitality Reception at the GCSAA Education Conference this month. Harry's resignation as Secretary/Treasurer comes after the Fox Valley Park District, under whose jurisdiction the Orchard Valley Golf Course falls, signed on with Billy Casper Golf to manage the facility as of January 1, 2010, who then opted not to retain him as golf course superintendent, as well as several other key employees. We wish nothing but the best to both Sharon and Harry in their futures.

(continued on page 14)



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Congratulations to **Matt Senatra**, former superintendent at Sydney Marovitz and Robert A. Black Golf Courses who is now the golf course superintendent at Orchard Valley Golf Course.

Also congratulations to **Reinders, Inc.** of Milwaukee, WI on receiving the Toro Company's award for outstanding customer service and performance in the commercial equipment market for 2009. Jerry Kienast, Service Director at Reinders accepted the Equipment Service Achievement Award for his accomplishments. The award, which is given to a service manager who has exhibited exemplary progress in completion of Toro's "Distributor Partners in Excellence" program which entails the distributor utilizing best business practices that produce positive results relating to customer satisfaction and service profitability.



L to R: Christiaan Engstrom of Toro, Jerry Kienast of Reinders, and Jack Hensley of Toro

MAGCS has lost one of its legends with the passing of **John Stephenson, CGCS** on January 14th. John was a 35+ year member of this association who continued as a Life Member up to the day he died in his hometown of Quincy, Illinois. John's caregiver had this statement: "He fought a long, hard battle, but in the end his lungs just couldn't keep up. As you all know, he was a great man and will be sadly missed by all of us. We all lost a very good friend, but as we know, he is in a much better place (probably on hole 19, celebrating this great golf game called LIFE)." **Eddie Braunsky** shared his memories of John, recalling his penchant for wearing his breakfast (and possibly lunch and dinner) on his shirt now and again, while also pointing out how much John loved attending MAGCS meetings and gathering with friends. John wasn't quite as fond of the education portions of those meetings, as evidenced by the occasional snore heard when the lights dimmed and the overhead projector fired up (and also by the cigarette burns in his pants from nodding off while enjoying a smoky treat). Our thoughts and prayers go out to the family and friends of John Stephenson.



John Stephenson

Boy, the worst part of this job is reporting the loss of a friend. I write this having just attended the funeral of **Gary Galecki**, the longtime superintendent at Ridge Country Club who had fought a bout with lung cancer. I've known Gary since our days working together at Butler National some 30 years ago, and above all else, he was just too damned young to be taken. Gary leaves behind his wife Grace and his children Josh and Jenna—both of whom spoke to the large congregation, Josh to share some fond and poignant memories of his dad, and Jenna to recite the General Intercessions with poise and grace—along with his extended family and countless friends. Our heartfelt sympathies go out to them.



Gary Galecki

Family and friends...

Many words may be used in many formats to describe Gary... Always and ever we shall think of these: friend, colleague, solid, quality, compassionate, caring, generous, thoughtful, erudite, positive, bright, strong and a complete example of a fine man. A guy's kind of a guy. He would ever give willingly of himself to his golf course and his friends... always though, there was much much more for his treasured family... Our heartfelt condolences are extended to you all... condolences for the finest "keeper of the green". Deep Peace Friend.... God Bless You.

~ A.T. Fierst, The Oak Park Country Club, Illinois

Don't forget this month's rendition of the Annual Class C Winter Workshop, which will be held on the 24th at Midwest Golf House in Lemont. The topics covered will be "Interviewing Do's and Don'ts" with **Luke Cella** heading up this interactive session, followed by "Landing the Position" featuring a panel discussion with four of MAGCS' newest superintendents—**Jim Canning** (White Eagle Golf Club), **Michael Heustis** (Chicago Highlands Club), **Kyle Jacobsen** (Twin Orchard Country Club), and **Scott Vincent** (Onwentsia Club). This educational opportunity is open to all MAGCS members, so head on over to Lemont for a full day of enlightenment, and at the bargain price of \$25.

Huge thanks go out to the generous **Golden Tee Sponsors** (as of printing) of this year's Hospitality Reception, held on February 10th at the Hotel Solamar in San Diego. The Ryder Cup Club includes: **Arthur Clesen Inc., BASF, Bayer Environmental Science, Nels J. Johnson Tree Experts, Inc., and Syngenta Turf & Ornamental.** Hole In One Club members are: **J.W. Turf, Inc., and Lohmann Companies.**

Eagle Club: **Murphy's Lemont Paving Co.**
 Birdie Club: **Palatine Oil Co., Inc.**, and **Waupaca Sand and Solutions.**
 Par Club: **BTSI, Great Lakes Turf, LLC, Growing Solutions, Harris Golf Cars, Hollembeak Construction, Pendleton Turf Supply, Phoenix Environmental Care, Prime Turf,** and **XGD Systems.**

Thank you again for your tremendous support of this great event!

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 While we're at it, thanks for volunteering your time and expertise to these gentlemen who are serving on GCSAA committees this year: **Fred Behnke, CGCS, John Ekstrom, Don Ferreri, Matt Hurley, Erwin McKone, Tim Scott,** and **Steve VanAcker, CGCS.**

On December 15th and 16th Midwest Golf House was the scene of the inaugural ITF Winter Workshops, which was a two-day education event featuring topics from all areas of turfgrass maintenance. Tuesday's session brought Dr. Frank Rossi from Cornell University to town, and his presentation on turfgrass disease—once it finally got started after an overdue arrival (Frank claimed that **Dan Dinelli** made him late) and some technical difficulties with the A/V equipment—was a big hit with the crowd. Frank spoke in depth on the "Bethpage Project" as well as other research subjects, and scattered in a fair number of his witty remarks to keep things lively. On his work with the new Yankee Stadium: "This is obscene—1.5 BILLION dollars and the thing leaks like a sieve." On his "research trip" to Scotland: "Huge scam—all golf." On his comments in *GCM* magazine that golf course superintendents are applying potash at ridiculously high levels, and that there is no research to support this level of use: "I'm sorry to all the potash salespeople out there whose Christmas may have been shorted by my comments." On describing a certain vendor in New York State: "You know, the typical salesman—he could talk a dog off a meat wagon." Good stuff as always from the good doctor from out east. The afternoon session featured **Greg Martin's** presentation on golf course architecture and construction trends, including his thoughts on the trend toward longer and more difficult courses which "make it painstakingly slow so they'll (golfers) have plenty of time to realize how bad they are." Greg also opined that we need more "cradle to grave" facilities where people can learn the game and then continue playing it throughout their lives, as well as more "hybrid courses" like one he's developing in India, where "they really don't know what golf is, they just know they want it." Following up on that topic, **Mike Sprouse**, superintendent at Randall Oaks Golf Course and Todd Quitno of Lohmann Golf Design discussed their recent project at Randall Oaks involving the construction of the first-ever Links Across America short course and practice area. These projects are designed to provide "feeder" courses—3, 6, and 9-holers—throughout the country which are affordable and accessible to everyone, and that will serve to both develop new golfers as well as help existing golfers improve their games. Wednesday's sessions included **Len Conley** of The Sanctuary speaking on what he knows best—the benefits of organic fertilizers; followed by **Dr. Tom Voigt**

of the University of Illinois reviewing weed identification; and wrapped up with a discussion on the reality behind artificial turf presented by Tim VanLoo of Northwestern University, Jonathon Huard of Field Turf, Mike Schiller of Community School District 95, and **Rusty Stachlewitz** of ProGro Solutions.. Great job by all the presenters on providing a memorable two days of topical (and GCSAA-points-approved) education.



Dr. Rossi was a little shy at first. . . .



. . . but he eventually was coaxed into taking the podium.



*Dr. Settle (Rt.) with
 A) Patrick Dempsey, B) Sean Penn, or C) Frank Rossi?*



(continued on page 16)



Greg Martin



Todd Quitno (L.) and Mike Sprouse.

So how's our buddy **Tom Lively, CGCS** doing? Not bad, not bad at all. You'll recall Tom left Medinah Country Club to head to Texas to assume the duties of golf course superintendent at the TPC San Antonio in March of 2008, a new 36-hole facility on 2,800 acres. Word has it that prior to its grand opening this month, Tom has been promoted to Director of Golf Course Maintenance for both courses, and has hired Brandon Reese as superintendent of the AT&T Oaks Course and Alex Stuedemann (formerly of TPC Deere Run) as superintendent of the AT&T Canyons Course. Congratulations, Tom!



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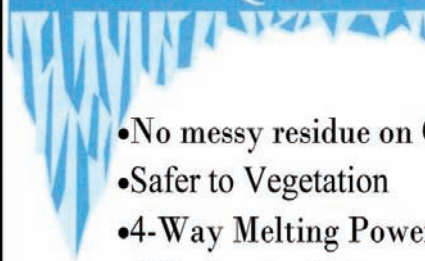
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The other Lively made the news as well. Not only did his course win *Golf* magazine's Renovation of the Year for 2009, it turns out **Bob Lively**, superintendent at Flossmoor Country Club has been nominated for TurfNet's 2009 Superintendent of the Year Award presented by Syngenta. By the time you read this the winner will have been named (at 2 p.m. on February 11th at the Syngenta booth at the Golf Industry Show in San Diego), so we say to Bob either A) Congratulations!, or B) You were robbed! The finalists were chosen from a field of 44 nominees based on each one's ability to excel in a variety of golf course management areas. Last year's winner was another South side guy and one of Bob's old friends—**Sam MacKenzie, CGCS** of Olympia Fields Country Club.

So you have a goose problem but don't want to commit to owning a dog? **Kevin Carlson** of Naperbrook and Springbrook Golf Courses in Naperville has twenty goose dogs that can stay on the course 24/7, don't need feeding, grooming, shots, or even water, never roll their necks in smelly stuff, and can be made from a few simple Home Depot purchases. According to the *Trib Local*, Kevin employs plywood silhouettes of dogs to scare off nuisance geese that his staff fashioned out of ¾" plywood, some paint, and a hunk of conduit to anchor them to the ground. Kevin places the dogs throughout the course where geese are most prevalent—mainly in the ruff. Get it?

Rick Jacobson (Jacobson Golf Course Design, Inc.) has opened his first 18-hole course in China this past November, when the Moon Course at Lion Lake Resort located northwest of Guangzhou (aka Canton) held the inaugural Ambassador's Cup Invitational, bringing representatives from more than 30 nations together for the international competition. While this is Rick's first course opening in China, he is working on several other projects in that very large and growing market.

The economy is obviously the big news for this coming golf season, as we all look for ways to do the same with less, whether it be at work or at home. Along these lines, Superintendent magazine recently ran an article called "Sink Your Dollars Into High-Priority Areas," and featured MAGCS members **Erwin McKone's** and **Don Ferreri's** take on the subject. The two mentioned such cost-cutting methods as reducing labor, extending equipment life (I'm sure that makes our iron reps real happy), naturalizing more out-of-play areas, applying more growth regulators, and even "carpooling" people from the course to the shop for breaks, leaving more equipment on the course to conserve fuel. Nice job, fellows.

The MAGCS January meeting and Wee One fundraiser was held at Seven Bridges Golf Club (**Don Ferreri** host), and a very special day it was. The morning's education presentations were very interesting, with Jim Yale, a safety and risk assessor for Westfield Insurance and Mark Jordan, CGCS, the superintendent of the company's 36-hole golf facility in Ohio providing a wealth of knowledge on Safety and Risk Management. Some items of interest were that there were 51,000 golf-related injuries reported in 2009, as well as 34 lightning deaths on golf courses, both of which can be reduced in 2010 with a more concentrated effort toward safety.



Jim Yale of Westfield Insurance makes everyone feel like there is more to do to make this safer.

Following these gentlemen was GCSAA Vice President Robert Randquist, CGCS and his views on the Future of GCSAA. Bob presented some thought-provoking numbers which are truly a sign of our times, stating that the revenue from the Golf Industry Show in San Diego is expected to be about half that of previous shows (\$2.1 to \$2.4 million v. \$3.5 to \$4 million previously), and that GCSAA's overall 2010 revenue is projected at \$16 million v. \$20 million in 2009. Mr. Randquist also opined on the question of ethics specifically in regard to certain management companies' procedures when soliciting business from clubs with current GCSAA member superintendents. His opinion, and that shared by GCSAA (and more importantly its legal department) is that while something may be unethical as set forth in GCSAA's code, it is not illegal, and therefore is not enforceable or punishable. He did say that he would take this discussion back to Lawrence, and recommend that a position paper be drafted on this very touchy subject.



Bob Randquist, CGCS addresses the Midwest Members in a sincere and frank manner.

(continued on page 18)



Seven Bridges was the site of the January meeting where over 90 members attended.



Southern Wine and Spirits (thanks Mike Riesenbeck) helped to remove any bidding apprehensions by serving up Bloody Mary's, Lemon Drops and some delectable scotch. Photo Credit: Aerial Images Photography



Pete Kiraly enjoys a froofy drink that made him stand funny.

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St. Charles Assistant Superintendent, Josh Therrein was a huge help before, during and after the fund raiser. Thanks Josh.



(l) Host for the day, Don Ferreri throws a nice party and (r) Trent Bradford is still mad at me for taking his picture(s).



(l) Tim Anderson contemplates outbidding one of his friends in the silent auction. (r) Brian Winkel can't remember what else he bid on during the day.



Howie Shuck, Ed Braunsky, Mrs. Shuck and Mr. Shuck and Angela Hess couldn't have been more thankful for the efforts and generosity of all involved.



Midwest newest board member (l) Dave Groelle and Dan Howard enjoy the afternoon.



(l) Jim Keith (if your parents just named you Keith Keith, no one would ever get your first and last names mixed up) accepts two checks from Jim McNair (one from the Wadsworth Foundation and one from the extended McNair Family's Foundation) to benefit Howie.

(continued on next page)

Had the day ended with the morning's education session and the great lunch that was served, everyone would have been satisfied. But the fun was just beginning, as the Wee One fundraiser kicked into gear just after lunch. The event was held in order to raise funds for **Howie Shuck**, who suffered an aortic aneurism which resulted in the amputation of both of his legs last year. Among the events was a silent auction chock-full of items donated from MAGCS commercial and superintendent members, raffles, a live auction for other donated items, and a Texas Hold 'Em tournament, along with an open bar and Hors d'ouvres throughout. Oh, and I forgot to mention the specialty drink table that featured lemon drops, some crazy good scotch, and a couple of cordials poured into chocolate shot glasses, thanks to Mike and **Sharon Riesenbeck**. Can't remember if I tried those or not... As testament to MAGCS members' spirit of helping out a colleague, the bids were generous beyond anything that could have been expected. I met Howie's dad on my way out, and he was moved to tears with the outpouring of generosity and caring he had witnessed throughout the whole day. Well done, MAGCS, and thank you to everyone who made it one of the most memorable meetings ever!

Special thanks to our sponsors for the day, who were: **John Deere Golf & J.W. Turf, Nadler Golf Car Sales, Inc./Authorized Club Car Distributor, Nels J. Johnson Tree Experts, Inc., and Quali-Pro.**



The lemon drops were popular.



More men with froofy drinks.



Mike Bavier, Mike Murphy and Mike Kalina.



Bob Randquist with Ed Fischer and Paul Bastron.



Colin White and Dan Sterr hold up the bar.