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February 2009

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FRONT COVER

When does the woodchuck do his thing? The MAGCS members enjoy seeing their golf courses covered in snow...but maybe not this long.

Photo Credit: Luke Cella

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The Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents (MAGCS), founded December 24, 1926, is a professional organization whose goals include preservation and dissemination of scientific and practical knowledge pertaining to golf turf maintenance. We endeavor to increase efficiency and economic performance while improving and enhancing the individual and collective prestige of the members.

The MAGCS member is also an environmental steward. We strive to uphold and enhance our surroundings by promoting flora and fauna in every facet in a manner that is beneficial to the general public now and in the future.

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Class C Advisor

In February, the MAGCS Class C committee sponsors a Winter Workshop geared toward the Assistant Superintendent. On those cold winter days, the content has been aimed at what we as assistants can and should be doing to improve as professionals with the ultimate goal of becoming superintendents. While many of us have the necessary skill sets to manage our greens and fairways, that isn't necessarily all that is needed in order to make the jump from the little class "C" member to the big "SM" that we all strive for. We have had consultants and head hunters come in and let us know about some innovative ways to get our resumes to the top of the pile and to get that interview. We have had them tell us how to handle the interview process and get that job. The elder statesmen of Class C have taken those messages and turned them into interviews and jobs. If you had scanned the room perhaps two years ago, you would have seen people that have since gotten superintendent positions locally. They were in that room listening to Jim McLaughlin or Bruce Williams. They went on to apply the skills that were offered.

While we as a committee do believe that this is important, this year we are going to try a little bit different route. One that we hope will be beneficial not only for assistants looking for a superintendent position, but also for those that have already attained them.

In the morning we are going to have two staff members from GCSAA. Penny Mitchell is the GCSAA Senior Manager of Certification. She will be directing her talk on certification toward how assistants can maximize their education in order to be best prepared for Class A status and, eventually, the coveted CGCS title. She has comprehensive knowledge on the certification process, so this is a golden opportunity for all members who have questions on CGCS. Coming with Penny from Lawrence, Kansas, will be Lyne Tumlinson, who is Director of Career Services at GCSAA. She will speak about Employer Issues and Career Track. This will include not only trends, but tips on how we can stay on the leading edge of those trends. Again, this is a topic that is beneficial not only to Class C members, but to anyone in MAGCS who is looking for some guidance.

After lunch, there will be a panel discussion with an open question and answer session. The emphasis will be on career tracks that may offer viable options for people looking to move forward in a flooded job market. Those on the panel will include

Eddie Sagan, who is the Facilities and Systems Manager at McDonalds Corporation; Travis Stephen, General Manager of the Rockford Riverhawks baseball team; and Eric Adkins, who is Superintendent of Grounds at Toyota Park, which is the home to the Chicago Fire soccer team. They will offer perspectives on a business very similar to ours that is seldom researched as a job option for those of us coming out of college. They should be able to open our eyes to a world of turf and grounds management that can serve as serious career options. I think we can all



agree that in a career where there are 300+ applicants for one open position, options are a good thing. So be sure to bring your questions for this esteemed group.

I believe that the Class C committee has put together a great morning session that will serve as a unique opportunity for all classes of MAGCS. That,

coupled with the panel discussion, should ensure a great day of learning that will open our eyes to the options available both inside and outside of our industry. On behalf of the Class C committee, I want to thank Leann Cooper at GCSAA for helping line up the morning session and our own Sharon Riesenbeck for all her work on the afternoon roundtable. I hope that many of our members, not just Assistants, will come out and take advantage of this great opportunity. See you February 17 at the Golf House. **-OC**

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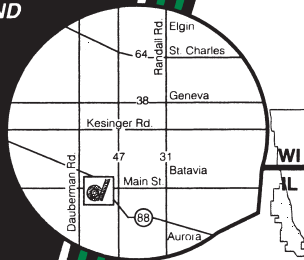
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Capping Oil Prices

Over the past four years, fuel prices have been increasing. This rise has caused stress to individuals and various other fuel dependents. To ease this burden, people began driving less, car pooling, selling/trading in SUVs, and limiting fuel consumption to an absolute minimum.

As the overall demand for fuel decreased, the supply increased. This low demand and high supply effect should have lowered the price of fuel; however, the cost continued to rise. In fact, in just one year, the cost of crude oil doubled from \$69/barrel to about \$150/barrel.

On July 17, 2008, fuel prices reached an all-time high at \$4.11/gallon. A future filled with reasonable gas prices seemed doubtful. The public made obvious sacrifices and lowered fuel demand, but their efforts had no positive effect. In a country that strongly depends on fuel, it seemed that every advantage was being taken of American society.

Surprisingly, the \$4/gallon gas hike didn't last long, and by August 2008, prices were back around \$3/gallon. From August to September 2008, the prices fluctuated in the \$3/gallon range, but once October came, the prices appeared to be lowering.

Fuel prices dropped from an average of \$4.11/gallon in July to an average of \$2.92/gallon in October. And throughout November, prices continued to drop—\$2.75, \$2.50, \$2.22, \$2.10, \$1.99! People hadn't seen fuel prices this low since early 2005! But the decline didn't stop there. In December 2008, fuel prices continued to drop and reached an average price of \$1.64/gallon.

How did this happen? Prices like \$1.64/gallon hadn't been seen since 2003. How could fuel cost in 2009 be the same as in 2003?

On January 11, the television news magazine *60 Minutes* aired an interesting segment, aimed at answering those unexplained questions, titled "Did Speculation Fuel Oil Price

Swings?" I have excerpted some particularly interesting pieces of that report below. For the complete transcript, or to view the video segment go to: <http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2009/01/08/60minutes/main4707770.shtml>

To understand fuel prices, one must first understand crude oil trading. For many years, crude oil has been bought and sold on the Commodities Futures Market. At the New York Mercantile Exchange, it's traded alongside cotton and coffee, copper, and steel by brokers who buy and sell contracts to deliver those goods at a certain price in the future.

It was created so that farmers could gauge what their unharvested crops would be worth months in advance, so that factories could lock in the best price for raw materials, and airlines could manage their fuel costs, but more than a year ago, the markets started behaving erratically. When oil doubled to \$147/barrel, Dan Gilligan, President of Petroleum Marketers Association (PMCA), set out to make sure the Commodities Futures Market was an honest market.

Gilligan represents over 8,000 retail and wholesaler suppliers ranging from home heating to gas stations owners.

Gilligan's suppliers were being blamed for gouging prices, but they were also paying high product amounts. Gilligan explained that the problem was in the commodities markets.

"Approximately 60 to 70 percent of the oil contracts in the futures markets are now held by speculative entities. Not by companies that need oil, not by the airlines, not by the oil companies. But by investors that are looking to make

(continued on next page)



money from their speculative positions," Gilligan explained.

Gilligan went on to say. "All they do is buy the paper, and hope that they can sell it for more than they paid for it. Before they have to take delivery."

"They're trying to make money on the market for oil?" Steve Kroft (60 Minutes reporter) asked.

"Absolutely," Gilligan replied. "On the volatility that exists in the market. They make it going up and down."

Hedge fund manager, Michael Masters, tracks the flow of investments into and out of financial markets, and he noticed huge amounts of money leaving stocks for commodities and oil futures, most of it going into index funds, betting the price of oil was going to go up.

Asked who was buying this "paper oil," Masters told Kroft, "The California pension fund. Harvard Endowment. Lots of large institutional investors. And, by the way, other investors, hedge funds, Wall Street trading desks were following right behind them, putting money - sovereign wealth funds were putting money in the futures markets as well. So you had all these investors putting money in the futures markets. And that was driving the price up."

In a five year period, Masters said the amount of money institutional investors, hedge funds, and the big Wall Street banks had placed in the commodities markets went from \$13 billion to \$300 billion.

Michael Greenberger, a former director of trading for the U.S. Commodity Futures Trading Commission (the federal agency that oversees oil futures) says there were no supply disruptions that could have justified such a big increase.

"Did China and India suddenly have gigantic needs for new oil products in a single day? No. Everybody agrees supply-demand could not drive the price up \$25, which was a record increase in the price of oil. The price of oil went from somewhere in the 60s to \$147 in less than a year. And we were being told, on that run-up, 'It's supply-demand, supply-demand, supply-demand,'" Greenberger said.

Masters believes the investor demand for commodities, and oil futures in particular, was created on Wall Street by hedge funds and the big Wall Street investment banks like Morgan Stanley, Goldman Sachs, Barclays, and J.P. Morgan, who made billions investing hundreds of billions of dollars



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of their clients' money. Masters says if the markets working properly, price of oil should've been decreasing. The only thing that makes sense is that investor demand increased.

"So you had the largest price increase in history during a time when actual demand was going down and actual supply was going up during the same period. However, the only thing that makes sense that lifted the price was investor demand," Masters said.

For the most part, Dan Gilligan agrees with Masters. Kroft went on to ask Gilligan, "Are you saying that companies like Goldman Sachs and Morgan Stanley and Barclays have as much to do with the price of oil going up as Exxon? Or...Shell?"

"The oil bubble began to deflate early last fall when Congress threatened new regulations and federal agencies announced they were beginning major investigations."

"Yes," Gilligan said. "I tease people sometimes that, you know, people say, 'Well, who's the largest oil company in America?' And they'll always say, 'Well, Exxon Mobil or Chevron, or BP.' But I'll say, 'No. Morgan Stanley.'"

It's impossible to tell exactly who was buying and selling all those oil contracts because most of the trading is now conducted in secret, with no public scrutiny or government oversight. Over time, the big Wall Street banks were allowed to buy and sell as many oil contracts as they wanted for their clients, circumventing regulations intended to limit speculation.

Who was responsible for deregulating the oil future market?" Kroft asked Michael Greenberger. "You'd have to say Enron," he replied. "This was something they desperately wanted, and they got."

"When Enron failed, we learned that Enron, and its conspirators who used their trading engine, were able to drive the price of electricity up, some say, by as much as 300% on the West Coast," he added.

"Is the same thing going on right now in the oil business?" Kroft asked.

"Every Enron trader, who knew how to do these manipulations, became the most valuable employee on Wall Street," Greenberger said.



The Energy Information Administration webpage provides some basics on crude oil <http://www.eia.doe.gov/kids/energyfacts/sources/non-renewable/oil.html#Howused>

Oil was formed from the remains of animals and plants that lived millions of years ago in a marine (water) environment before the dinosaurs. Over the years, the remains were covered by layers of mud. Heat and pressure from these layers helped the remains turn into what today we call crude oil.

Crude oil is...usually found in underground areas called reservoirs. Scientists and engineers explore a chosen area by studying rock samples from the earth... if the site seems promising, drilling begins.

After crude oil is extracted, it is sent to a refinery...where different parts of the crude oil are separated into useable petroleum products...A 42-U.S. gallon barrel of crude oil provides slightly more than 44 gallons of petroleum products. This processing gain is similar to what happens to popcorn, it gets bigger after it is popped.

One barrel of crude oil, when refined, produces about 20 gallons of finished motor gasoline, and 7 gallons of diesel, as well as other petroleum products. Most of the petroleum products are used to produce energy... Other products made from petroleum include: ink, crayons, bubble gum, dishwashing liquids, deodorant, eyeglasses, records, tires, ammonia, and heart valves.

But those valuable employees may now be looking for work. The oil bubble began to deflate early last fall when Congress threatened new regulations and federal agencies announced they were beginning major investigations. It finally popped with the bankruptcy of Lehman Brothers and the near collapse of AIG, who were both heavily invested in the oil markets. With hedge funds and investment houses facing margin calls, the speculators headed for the exits.

"From July 15th until the end of November, roughly \$70 billion came out of commodities futures from these index funds," Masters explained. "In fact, gasoline demand went down by roughly five percent over that same period of time. Yet the price of crude oil dropped more than \$100 a barrel. It dropped 75 percent."

Asked how he explains that, Masters said, "By looking at investors, that's the only way you can explain it."

When dealing with the economy or politics or any other debatable subject matter, it seems like everyone has their own opinion. Type "Why have gas prices dropped" into any Internet search engine and prepare to read theory after theory

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after theory—each providing an answer to that broad question. And here's the tricky part—who's right and who's wrong? Here are three things to do: stay involved, research and most importantly, listen. Don't settle on that first news story or explanation from "John" at work.

Over the past few years, the American public has united and managed to drastically reduce their fuel intake. The message was clear, "These gas prices are ridiculous." And although it took some time and sacrifice, that message finally seemed to have gotten delivered. **-OC**

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FEATURE II

David Marquardt, *Dirt-n-Turf Consulting*



Economical Agronomical Thinking – Part I

Budgets rule! Unquestionably this is the case. The amount of money in our budget will, and often does, impact the products and methods we use to maintain our turf. So, when our budgets get cut...as most have....does this mean that quality of play must be sacrificed as well? Well of course each club/course is unique, and in some cases, where budgets are already tight, the quality of turf will be greatly influenced by further cuts. However, in most clubs this does not have to be the case.

Oil prices have fallen and gas is half of what it was a year ago. Fertilizers are still expensive but well off their highs. While these two factors will help to ease some of our budget woes, lower-than-expected play levels may well consume these savings. So what's the superintendent to do? Well, based on client visits, innovative and creative superintendents have found a host of ways to change their practices, improve playing conditions, and still meet budget restrictions. Aerification is but one of those ways.

Many hours of discussion take place around the types, tools, and methods used for aerification. One shortcut on greens that actually improves the quality of the profile, as well as saves money, is to re-incorporate sand based cores. This method, while old school, blends new sand with the sand used in construction and topdressing and actually builds a more homogenous profile. Now obviously there are exceptions and we don't mean to

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Improving the quality of the profile by pulling plugs on a sand based green.

suggest otherwise. For instance in some cases we have found that the construction material is too coarse to leave on the surface and must be harvested. In other cases, where extreme surface stratification and organic matter have developed, then core removal may be necessary.

We are also fully aware that anytime we use a sand that is either finer or coarser than the material used in construction, we form layers. By blending cores as we fill fall and spring aerification holes, we also blend the sands that have been used over time and lessen the degree of stratification. If you have properly maintained organic matter, then give this labor-saving technique a try. I think you will be amazed at how much labor and sand you will save while improving your profile and your playing conditions.

Tees and fairways are their own animals. Many superintendents are still core-aerifying when thatch control is not a problem. As we all know, this is a labor intensive and a mechanically intensive method of compaction relief, as well as a great inconvenience to those who pay our bills. Further, because of the cost and player inconvenience, opportunities to maintain compaction relief are few. An alternative method of compaction relief is **slicer aerification**. This is a method that not only relieves compaction, but can be accomplished with no real disruption to the player's experience or revenue stream. These tools require no PTO or large, expensive tractor to operate and can be used repeatedly throughout the spring and fall. Ground driven, the time of operation may be 12 hours or less to aerify the typical 18-hole facility. Not only are the cost savings obvious, the results are more impressive than coring. Slices

within the turf canopy will allow water to move down and off the turf surface, which minimizes future compaction and aids in the ability to re-wet troublesome areas.

If thatch control is a concern, then take some time to first consider the cause. If your maintenance nitrogen levels are appropriate, then it may be time to employ a biological approach. Superintendents around Chicago are beginning to find that simple, short-chain sugars, such as corn syrup or molasses, will aid and increase the rate of organic matter digestion. (More on this may be found on the internet as well as in the article "Chemical thatch control in a creeping bentgrass putting green," found in CGM, Oct. 96). I would further add that the same biological approach to greens organic matter control has also proven to be highly successful.

As far as brands go, I have the most experience with the AerWay and Bannerman lines but am sure that there are more available. Among the objections I have heard to slicing technologies is the purpling (drying) of the slit in the soil. Two thoughts: First of all, as with any form of cultural practice, the operator must make sure that conditions are appropriate and, depending on the weather, may need to irrigate in order to lessen the drying that takes place. Secondly, slicer tines also provide a fracture of the soil profile that is a **long term correction, not just a short term fix** such as coring or solid tining. With this in mind, the more the equipment is used, the better the profile becomes, and the less that slice appearance is noticed. The photos show a late May aerification of a bentgrass fairway that raised no objection from players or groomers. After two to three years of



Reincorporating sand based cores into the sand profile after topdressing.

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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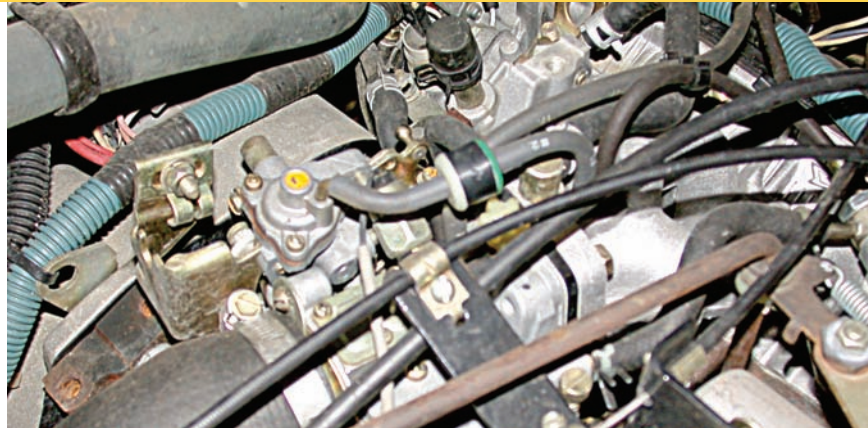
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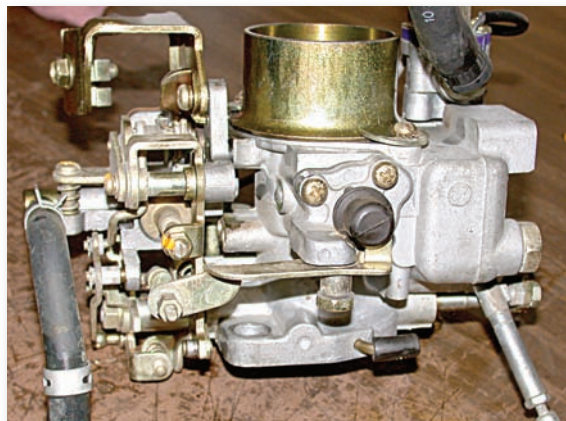
We have all been faced with those repairs that baffle the mind and leave us cursing the sadistic engineer that put us in this position. I have seen this type of frustration more times than I can tell you and have had it happen to me more than I care to admit. I can tell you there is no silver bullet 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 Vandeveld**—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)



Lay it and Play it!

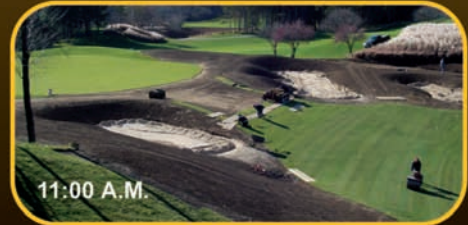
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Chicagoland Association of Golf Course Superintendents 2009 Forum. The theme for the day is "Manage Your Career and Your Golf Course," and will feature a variety of renowned speakers and topics. GCSAA Education Points will be awarded for attendance—contact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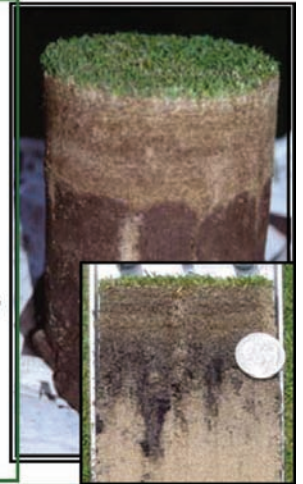


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Rusty

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

.....
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



Olympia Fields Country Club

.....
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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Paul E. Burdett

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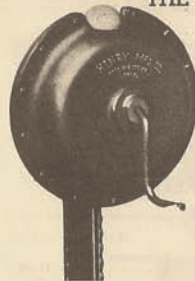
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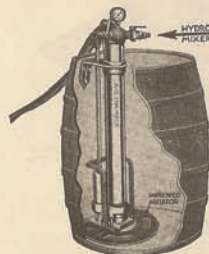
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In related news, a guy who is old enough to have actually used the above catalog to buy his Lawn Sinox and Arsenate of Lead recently was heard from. **Fred Opperman, CGCS** the past MAGCS president and editor of this publication who retired to Montana 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).

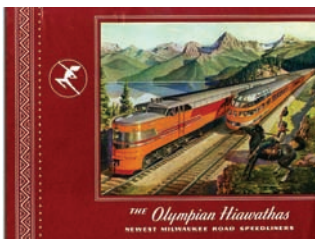


L-R: Keith Johnson, Gary Hearn, Roger Johnson and Paul Burger

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
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(Now it starts getting really expensive)	
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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.

Equipment for Sale

1995 Toro Hydro-Ject with trailer \$4,000
 1986 E-Z Go 4-speed Turckster \$500
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New Plans from the Illinois Turfgrass Foundation

Whether we like it or not, another new age is upon us. Entire markets, huge corporations, small businesses and countless industries are all being affected by global economic uncertainties. The business of golf is no exception. The drop in housing, rising unemployment, saturated golf markets, flat line of growth, personal time availability, rising fuel costs and even a tumbling stock market have all influenced our industry adversely. A tightening of the budget purse strings is a burdensome problem we are all facing today, and conventional thinking is no longer an acceptable recourse of action. Finding new and more efficient ways to manage our facilities is a path for us to succeed.

Similar logic has to be applied with the operations of the Illinois Turfgrass Foundation (ITF) as well. It is the board of directors' responsibility and goal to find new ways to raise revenue to fund turfgrass research in Illinois. It is also our responsibility and goal to discover new ways to educate our membership and fully utilize all available resources. The thought process of raising money, while clearly understanding the budgetary constraints that each and every one of us is dealing with, is the challenge that confronts us now.

Obviously one way of securing income is by placing a control on spending. From an organizational standpoint, our biggest expenditure is also our biggest income producer, the Illinois Professional Turf Conference (IPTC). This past year the IPTC changed locations to the Schaumburg Convention Center. This was a rather bold move indeed, after being treated so very fairly for many years at the Pheasant Run Resort, but one we as a board felt necessary to ensure future growth of the show. Unfortunately our future growth comes at a price. In 2008 our show expenditures amounted to 80% of all revenue raised, leaving a 20% profit margin. In the business world this would be considered a very successful venture, especially in these economic times. But in order to achieve this profitability, costs ultimately were passed on to our vendors, registrants and various participants.

Considering most of the expenditures for putting on this type of show are fixed, the fragile nature of the trade show industry as a whole, general public consensus of a current failing



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economy, and a total uncertainty what the next golf season will bring, it is hard to imagine trying to reproduce this type of success in 2009. This is why the ITF Board of Directors has opted to forgo hosting the IPTC, at least for 2009, and play host to a totally new type of venture named the *I Turf Expo*.

Although the *I Turf Expo* is still in its infancy of planning stages, your ITF committee members are now feverishly ironing out the details for what type of fundraiser/educational tool this will become. At this point to describe it best would be to call it

(continued on page 23)

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a Turfgrass Field Day/Trade Show on steroids. The *I Turf Expo* will take place on the grounds (and facilities) of the Midwest Golf House Complex, home of the Chicago District Golf Association (CDGA). The dates will be August 25 _ 26, 2009. Conceptually, some of the advantages the *I Turf Expo* will bring to our membership are:

- An opportunity to fully utilize the Midwest Golf House in a way it was is intended as a total turfgrass educational resource and research center.
- To create an atmosphere where you can come and see the latest products and equipment in action, not just brochures and parked equipment.
- To allow live vendor product and equipment demonstrations with no conflicting educational programming.
- Full access to turfgrass research field studies and turfgrass variety trials plus annuals, perennials and many other plant families.

- Registrant participation in equipment demonstrations.
- Specialized training for your staff including safety, irrigation and pruning.
- To offer additional educational opportunities, in the way of winter workshops, to each allied turfgrass association without being tied to a single event (IPTC).

This is certainly a change from our conventional way of doing business; however, we as a board believe this change will help us become more financially stable, keep our organizational goals intact and provide funding for turfgrass research and education to our membership.

Our barometer for success has been, and will always be, membership participation/satisfaction. So please mark your calendars and plan on attending this year's *I Turf Expo*, you will not be disappointed. Hope to see you all there. **-OC**



The ITurfExpo is best described as a turf field day on steroids. Attendees will see formal education, equipment demonstrations, product and research trials and much more.



MIDWEST PERSONALITIES

Bob Slone, *Retired*



E-mail: **bobslome@sbcglobal.net**
Course/Club/Company: **retired/exmoor cc**
Job Title: **mechanic**
MAGCS Member Since: **1973 ?**
Date of Birth: **2/17/49**
Place of Birth: **chicago**
Current Residence: **835 a valley stream wheeling il.**
College/Degree: **on the job training**
Spouse/Children: **linda/michael/scott/brian**
My Favorite Childhood Memory is: **fast cars**
My Personal Hero: **father**
My Professional Mentors: **john jaeger**
Favorite Actor: **george w bush**
Favorite Musical Performer: **beatles**
Favorite Restaurant: **dover straits**
Favorite "Pig Out" Food: **pizza**
Favorite TV Show: **news**
Favorite Color: **red**
Favorite Professional Sports Team: **bears**
Favorite Pro Athlete: **the late walter payton**
Favorite Pro Golfer: **tiger**
My Handicap Index: **golf**
My Favorite Place to Play Golf is: **exmoor**
My Best/Most Memorable Round: **the one i missed**
The Most Interesting/Exotic Place I've been: **exmoor cc**
The Book I've Been Recommending
Lately: **time**
The Last Great Moive I Saw:
caddy shack
In my Spare Time I Enjoy: **sleeping**
Three Words that Best Describe Me:
not very funny
What I Enjoy Most about My Job:
don't have one
What I Enjoy Least about My Job:
answering questions
I'm a MAGCS Member Because:
**o.k. just give me a couple
more seconds... -OC**

Randy H. Lusher

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Model 3682



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