Local Heroes
Because of them, our industry is a better place.

Yamaha and Golfdom are partnering to pay tribute to superintendents around the nation who serve their profession as volunteer leaders of local chapter associations. Please join us in thanking these “local heroes.”

Steve Kealy
Certified Superintendent, Glendale Country Club, Bellevue, Wash.
Long-time work on environmental issues

"You could write volumes about what Steve Kealy has done for the golf industry," says Todd Lupkes of Gig Harbor Golf Course, president of the Western Washington GCSA (WWGCSA). "He is a power player in the Northwest. Environmental pressures are strong in this region. He is knowledgeable and articulate, and people listen when he speaks. State legislative bills have even been changed after he has testified."

While he is the past president of the WWGCSA, Kealy currently chairs the chapter's Environmental Committee, serves as vice president of both the Northwest Turfgrass Association and the Washington Friends of Farms and Forests, and chairs the Horticulture Advisory Committee for the Bellevue School District's Career and Technical Education Advisory Committee.

Lupkes points out that Kealy spearheaded efforts that brought together the WWGCSA, Washington State Golf Association, Western Washington Section of the PGA of America and the Evergreen Chapter of the Club Managers Association of America to hire an advocate for golf at the state legislature.

David Webner
Westwood Country Club, Rocky River, Ohio
Former president of Ohio Turfgrass Foundation and Northern Ohio GCAS

"Looks like 'Here we go again,'" David Webner says, relating a phone call he had taken requesting that he assist in the newest venture of The Ohio State University's Agricultural Technical Institute (ATI): the Commercial Turf Equipment Industry Advisory Committee. ATI will teach people to be golf courses mechanics, and it's been three years since Webner stepped down as president of the Ohio Turfgrass Foundation (OTF), so he is taking the plunge back into volunteer work — again.

"I would greatly encourage anybody to get involved (volunteering)," says the 1981 graduate of Penn State University's two-year turfgrass management program. "Even if it's on a committee that meets twice a year for a couple hours. You will learn a lot and meet a lot of good people."

Beginning in 1987, Webner served on various committees of the Northern Ohio GCAS and then worked his way through the offices, serving as president in 1994. At the same time, he was volunteering on OTF committees, culminating with his run through the offices and his presidency in 1999.

DO YOU KNOW A LOCAL HERO IN YOUR CHAPTER?
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Two golfers were sitting at the 19th hole discussing their games this year when one says to the other, “My game is so bad this year I had to have my ball retriever regripped!”

Golfdom’s JOKE of the month

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Westerns

Stock Westerns still have the most hackneyed conventions — good guy and bad guy duke it out for gold or a girl. However, the classic Westerns always strove for something more.

So, how was the West won, at least on the silver screen? These films — what I call the Magnificent Eight — give complex, often disturbing answers to that common question. While I eagerly await the e-mails telling me I’m an idiot for what I left off, here are the ones that have left their mark on me.

8. War Wagon — (1967) While certainly the least deserving of any film on the list, this John Wayne-Kirk Douglas vehicle showed seemingly every summer at the free movies in my hometown of Salina, Kan. My brother and I simply loved the gatling gun and our action-packed introduction to the Western.

7. The Long Riders (1980) — An extremely violent, somewhat sympathetic look at a quartet of outlaw siblings — Jameses, Youngers, Millers and Fords — as they tear through Missouri shooting darn near everything. Superior gunfights and a great period soundtrack by Ry Cooder makes this often neglected film worth checking out.

6. Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid (1969) — “Rules?! In a knife fight?!” The great buddy flick with Robert Redford and Paul Newman as two outlaws on the lam to Bolivia features one of cinema’s most memorable leaps.

5. The Wild Bunch (1969) — Martin Scorsese and John Woo learned plenty about slow-motion depictions of violence from this Sam Peckinpah blood bath. The film, when released, carried unmistakable contemporary echoes of the carnage in Vietnam.

4. Unforgiven (1992) — Hard to get better than Clint Eastwood’s Oscar-winning masterpiece. A gunslinger reluctantly comes out of retirement and faces a slew of bad guys, including Richard Harris and Gene Hackman. The film critiques the conventions of the Western, placing the existential question of killing right up front.

3. High Noon (1952) — A scathing indictment of the Hollywood blacklist. High Noon features Gary Cooper as a sheriff suddenly abandoned by everyone as the dastardly Miller gang prepares to exact revenge on the lawman.

2. The Good, The Bad and The Ugly (1966) — Eastwood’s Man With No Name must work with the Bad (Lee Van Cleef) and the Ugly (Eli Wallach) to recover $200,000 in Confederate gold. It’s a wonderful story of (dis)honor amongst thieves and the epitome of director Sergio Leone’s Spaghetti Westerns.

1. Shane (1953) — While Alan Ladd was a very short fellow, he rides tall in the saddle in this fabulous psychological Western pitting family homesteaders against an increasingly violent cattle baron. A young Jack Palance stars as Wilson, the hired gun and Shane’s ultimate nemesis. My father and grandfather’s favorite Western, has, over time, become mine as well.

And here’s wishing the serious Western, like Shane, would please come back.

Mark Luce, a freelance writer in Lawrence, Kan., secretly wishes he was a saloon keeper in the Old West. You can dog his picks by sending him an e-mail at mluce@earthblink.net
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