

# Past President's Message



Don Cross, CGCS  
Skokie C.C.

It's been a long road since that Annual Meeting back eight years ago, but a short journey. Being elected to serve an association such as ours with

its professionalism, stature, and recognition has truly been an honor. It's been a real privilege to serve among a group of such accomplished members as we have in the MAGCS.

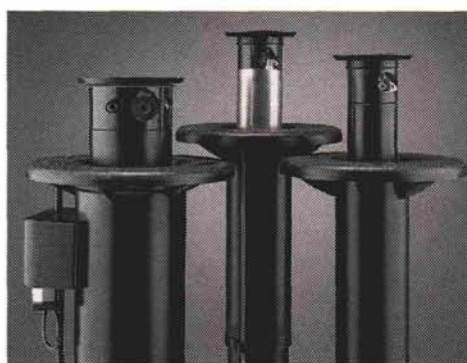
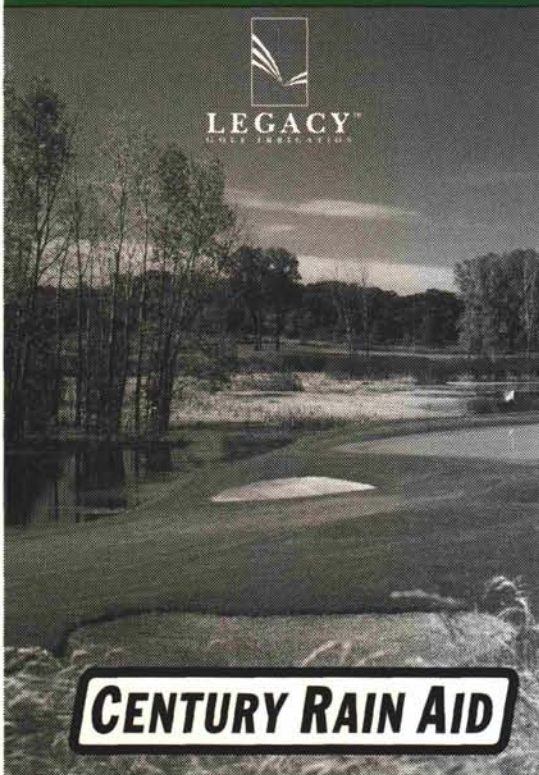
If you were to think about it for a minute, the achievements of many of your MAGCS members has indeed been impressive. From our ranks, we've had GCSAA presidents (and more to come), a USGA Distinguished Service Award recipient, Environmental Stewardship Award recipients, and certainly other awards of such national prestige that I've missed. We have a number of our members that serve on GCSAA committees, allied association committees, and other green industry

committees and boards. Our members' participation and involvement in the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program may be the largest of any single affiliated chapter. Our courses have been the venues of such national tournaments as the US Open, US Senior Open, the Western Open, US Amateur Championships, and more. And this list of accomplishments, achievements, and recognitions could go on and on.

Thinking about these things cannot help but make any member proud and privileged to belong to the group that ties us all together, the Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents.

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**Past President's Message**  
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Over the last few years, we've seen a number of changes in our association that I believe have strengthened the MAGCS, and will continue to do so into the future. Sure, we've made some mistakes; it happens in all associations. But most would agree that the changes have been very positive.

Since joining the Board of Directors and acting on recommendations and planning of earlier boards (which continues today), the following list of improvements have been accomplished:

- Advanced registration (and now credit card option payment) to facilitate meeting planning and golf event scheduling.

- Varying golf events and improved quality and variety of merchandise.

- Quality educational topics with timely information, on occasion held at different times (before golf) to better accommodate members' schedules.

- Efforts to improve public relations, our presence and recognition (golf show, radio programs, articles).

- Dramatically enhanced monthly magazine *On Course* managed by our superb editor, Fred Opperman, and an informational publication about the MAGCS ("MAGCS Brochure").

- An improved commitment to funding of various research programs (GCSAA, U of I, Cantigny Research Green) made possible by

the voluntary Gold/Silver Contribution Program.

- Improved directory development and distribution, membership mailing notices, and database management made possible by the outstanding efforts of our executive secretary, George Minnis.

- A vastly improved hospitality room at the GCSAA Conference, made possible by the unwavering support of our commercial members.

Again, the list could go on.

We've come a long way, and the current Board of Directors is focused on continuing these advancements. There is always a lot of work to be done, and much goes on behind the

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**the Bull Sheet**

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published. For all of you who need to have geese chased off your property and do not own a dog, please give Harold a call. His phone number is 708-361-6772, and his pager number is 630-867-5840.

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Congratulations to Ray Schmitz on Flossmoor C.C. becoming the 101st Audubon certified golf course in the country. Illinois has the largest number of certified courses.

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Craig Wilson is looking for an assistant's position. He is presently at Briarwood C.C. Please call 847-945-3350 or his home at 414-304-0749.  
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For sale: 1983 Dodge D250 pickup truck, John Deere 575 Skid Steer Loader (hydraulic pump broken), 1982 Bobcat traction unit, Wards 11 HP garden tractor, 1988 Brower PTO-driven 10' reel mower unit. All equipment as-is, best offer. Written bids must be received by November 14. Contact Daryl Cole, Channahon Park District, 815-467-5621.

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The bachelor of bachelors (next to Al Fierst) Dave Blomquist is marrying Michelle McMahon on November 7 in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico. All are welcome to come. Congratulations to the happy couple.  
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Details were still being finalized at press time for the Midwest Turf Clinic and Annual Meeting to be held back at Medinah C.C. this year. Their newly-remodeled clubhouse is said to be spectacular. The November 12 clinic will open with registration from 8 to 9 a.m. The Clinic and Annual Meeting will follow. Hope to see you all there!  
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For sale: Meyers model 5525 PTO, 300-gallon spray rig. Best offer. Call Bill or Al at Lake Shore C.C., 847-835-4303.  
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Joel Purpur has been busy this fall remodeling his practice range and tee plus rebuilding 21 bunkers and 5 tees. He still found time to hit the Gauley River and go white water rafting.  
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**President's Message**

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concerned. I cannot thank you enough, George, other than helping you out in the years to come. Drop George a line or give him a call to let him know how he is doing.

Every time you turn on an awards show, all of the winners make sure to thank their families. I cannot forget mine. My wife Sue and my kids Ben and Emily are truly my inspiration. They put up with all of my time away from home and are always there for me. If you have a family that supports you like mine does, you are blessed! I LOVE YOU GUYS!

Recently, one of my members, a fine pediatrician, was honored for his forty-two years of service to the Fox Valley area. I talked to him on the course soon after that event. I told him he deserved all of the honors he was being given. He told me, "I

went to school, I learned a profession and I did my job!" I feel that I have served the association, learned the ins and outs of the MAGCS, and I hope that I have done my job! Thanks a million (before taxes) to all!



Ed Braunsky, CGCS  
President, MAGCS

**Past President's Message**

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scenes. President Ed Braunsky, Vice President Kevin Czerkies, and Secretary/Treasurer Bob Maibusch, as well as the entire Board of Directors have performed admirably. They are just as busy with their work activities and family lives as everyone else is, but they still find the time to unselfishly serve our association. Thank you so much, guys!

The Midwest is always looking for and depends upon interested and dedicated members to help serve our fine organization. Get involved. Serve on a committee. Run for the board. Give a little something back to the group that benefits you in so many ways. You'll be glad you did. ■