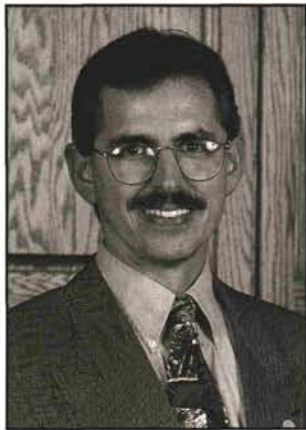


# My Favorite Year



Bob Maibusch, CGCS, MG  
Hinsdale G.C.

Now that the 1997 golf season is almost over, I can look back and honestly say that this has been my favorite year. I turned 40 this summer, and in anticipation of that sobering event, I finally acted

on several personal goals that I had set for myself.

The first goal was a long overdue pilgrimage to "The Masters" in April. After years of being fascinated with this tournament and venue, it would have been only natural to have over-inflated expectations of the actual event. Incredibly, it was the only time that I can remember where my highest expectations were far exceeded. Anyone in the business who has not made this trip should take the time to do so. It is simply indescribable, and the opportunity that Augusta National has given to all Class A golf course superintendents for free admission is a fabulous benefit of GCSAA membership that we should all be grateful for.

My second venture into new territory was attending the GCSAA Chapter Relations meeting in Maryland in June. Although I have attended committee meetings before, this one coincided with our biggest men's event of the season. In 15 years at Hinsdale Golf Club, I had never missed a "big" event. After discussing it with my grounds chairman, he gave me the go-ahead, and it was a great experience for me. An added benefit was the opportunity to attend the US Open at Congressional Country Club while I was out there. It also made me realize what a commitment our GCSAA Board of Director members make to this association. They are required to do this regularly and, in some cases, have jeopardized their own jobs for the betterment of the association.

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**the Bull Sheet**

*(continued from page 30)*

The MAGCS will register the initials "MAGCS" for a time when they decide to go on-line. This will avoid the possibility of someone else using the initials and putting us in a position of trying to buy it back.

.....  
Paul Knulty is looking for an assistant at the Oak Club of Genoa. Please call 815-784-5678.

.....  
Park Ridge C.C. assistant Wayne Geier's son Josh, 15, has cancer and is going through radiation treatments. Please remember Josh in your prayers for a speedy recovery.

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*Qualifications:* Must know enough English to take and pass a fourth grade-level qualifying test.

*Time & Dates:* Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 12 noon, November 8, 1997, to February 21, 1998, for a total of 10 weeks.

*Benefits:* Students will go over each one of the chapters in the General Standards book, both in English and in Spanish, until they learn the material and have enough confidence to take the test.

*Fees:* \$250

*Promise:* If the student passes the qualification test, Harper guarantees that the student will pass the General Standards Test, or they will keep him in their program until he passes it or for a full 12-month period.

*Info:* Please call 847-291-2232, and ask for Fernando.

*Materials needed:* The General Standards book, both the English and the Spanish versions.

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**Director's Column**

*(continued from page 4)*

My last and biggest goal was to take a summer vacation, something I had never done in 28 years of working on golf courses. I did not originally intend to take one this year, but my wife and children were traveling out to Wyoming the last week of July for four days of living on covered wagons while riding horses and trekking through the Grand Tetons. It was planned as another family vacation without me. I'm sure that those of us with children have all gotten the lecture from time to time about how our wives feel like single parents, but I'm lucky that this doesn't discourage my wife from forging ahead. My kids asked why I couldn't go with them, and I gave them my standard golf course superintendent reply of not being able to take that much time off during the summer. After

some reflection, I realized that I would probably never get the opportunity to do this with my children again.

I once again approached my grounds chairman, and he enthusiastically gave me the green light to spend the week in Wyoming. I then made the arrangements to meet my family without their knowledge ( I wanted a bailout option in case something went haywire at work, and I couldn't leave). In the last week of July, the week of my 40th birthday, I departed for Jackson Hole, Wyoming. It was one of the best things I have ever done. The look on my kids' face when I arrived was priceless. We had a great week incommunicado in the mountains. I didn't even worry about work because I knew there was nothing I could do about it. Of course, sit-

ting in the Denver airport waiting for a connecting flight home and hearing that Chicago had a heat index of 118 the previous day was a little disconcerting, but everything was fine when I got back.

I guess the lesson that I learned from all of this is to not let life pass me by. There is never a good time to be gone from work, but we grow as people when we experience new things; and the trust that we place in our staffs when we are gone is invaluable to their development as well. I was lucky this year to have exceptionally good weather, a fabulous staff, and a supportive Board of Directors and membership at my club. It's something that everyone should be able to do with a little prior planning. ■