

# Brett Hultquist -N- Mill Creek Golf Club

*Paul Yerkes  
Lesco Inc.*

The friendly confines of Mill Creek Golf Course in Geneva are the venue for opening day of the MAGCS golf season on April 27. Our host Brett Hultquist, who has been at Mill Creek since construction, feels his three-year-old course will be a great test for the prestigious MAGCS Tour. A Roy Case design, Mill Creek offers 32 acres of fairways, four acres of undulating greens, four acres of multiple tees, a nine-hole pitch-n-putt course, a 50,000-square-foot bentgrass practice tee, a 40,000-square-foot practice green, a newly constructed clubhouse and in the new future, an additional nine holes of excellent golf. Wow!



*Brett Hultquist*

love with the golf course business while working for the Lisle Park District. While there, Brett supervised the construction grow-in and maintenance of the River Bend Golf Course. Thereafter, Brett found himself working as an assistant for Joe Voss at Ruffled Feathers. A year later, both Joe and Brett blazed a trail west to build a new course in Geneva—Mill Creek.

When he's not at the golf course, Brett spends time with Sharon, his wife of 17 years, and their three-year-old son Erik. Since Jason's departure, it's going to be a lot tougher for the

*(continued on page 28)*

Brett, with the initial help of Joe Voss, has been a big reason for the success of this Kent Shodeen project. Supported by shaper Darrell Koclper and irrigation drainage expert Jim Bakely, Brett assumed much of the in-house work. Jason Dempsay, the seasoned assistant, made Brett's role a whole lot easier by sharing many of the superintendent's day-to-day responsibilities. Incidentally, Jason accepted the superintendent's position at The Bourne Golf Club. Congratulations, Jason! Brett has been fortunate to have a great crew, which for the most part hasn't changed throughout the years. All the in-house work with the magnitude of this project posed many challenges, but Brett says jokingly that his biggest challenge was "working for Joe."

A graduate of Illinois State in resource management, Brett fell in

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## Midwest Association Notes

(continued from page 26)

"It is not a common practice to give extra time for overtime on Saturday afternoon or evening work. As a rule the men are glad to earn money that comes from additional time. If clubs were required to pay time-and-a-half or double time for overtime work, it is doubtful if much overtime would be put in as at the extra rate it would not be justified except in rather rare instances. On the other hand, when men are asked to come back in the evening or at times when they have to make a special trip at their own expense for a short spell of work, it seems only fair that their transportation expense should be made up in some way, such as adding enough time to cover this item. Sunday work is generally recognized as justly warranting an extra pay and this is usually accomplished by allowing a third or a half-day's time for mowing greens and general tidying up.


"While at the outside this committee had the intention of making definite recommendations on wage scale rates for the coming season, a close study of the conditions as they exist does not justify so ambitious and sweeping a standardization. It finds that clubs operate under a wide variety of conditions and in a variety of situations. Some are located in residential sections while others are isolated in farming areas, some workmen live within a block or two of the course while others have to drive many miles, some districts are affected in the wage scale by the rates paid to the organized labor trades while others are outside this influence. These and many other factors have their effect in determining the wage scale that individual clubs can offer their employees. It is not out of place to mention at this point that in general, clubs work on a definite budget, and there is so much allotted for course maintenance which can be spent in two ways—many men doing hand work fair to expert

mechanics, accomplishing the same end with power driven machinery. This brings up another vital point and that is this, that if golf labor is to be classified, we must recognize that the mechanic-greensman should not be rated with the hand mower greensman. If the golf clubs should establish wage rates for the district, consideration should be given those clubs who carry a number of men who do not run power machinery, as these men are not entitled to as high rates. Many greenkeepers like to have each man versatile in all operations, but on almost every course there are old hands who are unable to handle the newer equipment. For these a lower rate should be established by those clubs who would wish to take advantage of it."

Fortunately, the date of the last Midwest meeting coincided with Dr. Monteith's stop-over at Chicago, en route on an 18-day western trip.

In Dr. Monteith's talk at the meeting, he touched upon the Green Section's work and pointed out the need for further research. At the conclusion of his talk, he was peppered with questions, mostly in connection with the recent work on weed control.


In discussing the Midwest Turf Garden at Lasker's Estate, Monteith stated that the Section could furnish very little aid, and that probably the work there would have to be entirely discontinued.

A ray of hope for the revival of the garden lies in the plan of the Chicago District Golf Association to raise subscriptions to continue this work. It is sincerely hoped that something definite can be worked out to continue the Midwest Garden as it serves the need of additional research work in the Midwest section. 

## Brett Hultquist -N- Mill Creek G.C.

(continued from page 12)

Hultquist family to escape up to their cottage on Lake Montello in Wisconsin. Brett, good luck in finding a replacement for Jason, and if you can't make it up to your cottage as much, I'll be more than happy to fill in.

Given the unpredictable weather in April, we have to hope we won't lose our home opener. So take me out to the golf course, take me out to Mill Creek. I'm not sure about the availability of peanuts and crackerjack, but just remember, if your team doesn't win, now that's a shame. 

## Director's Column

(continued from page 10)

providing feature articles, Super 'n' Site profiles, and human-interest articles that help keep our magazine OUR magazine, and among the best in the profession. During the GCSAA convention in Orlando, I was amazed at the number of newsletter editors from across the nation who knew Fred and thanked him for allowing them to reprint articles from *On Course* in their own newsletters. The willingness to share information is one of the strengths of this association; *On Course* represents us well in this mission.

I would like to acknowledge the contributions and assistance of the members of the Editorial Committee: John Gurke, Jim McNair, Ray Schmitz, Dr. Randy Kane, Dan Anderson, Mike Mumper, Paul Yerkes, Pat Norton, Luke Cella, Larry Tomaszewski and David Braasch (I told you it was a big group). Without your participation, the magazine wouldn't be where it is today. Hold on guys, it's going to be an interesting ride. You know how stern Fred could be when it came to deadlines? Well, don't mess with Cathy—she goes right for the ice pick. 