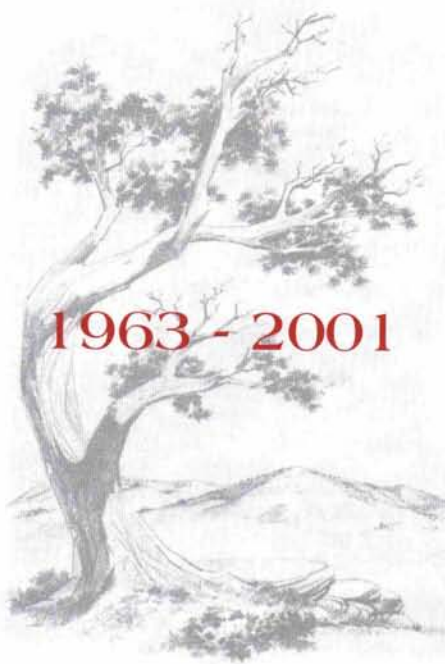


In Memory of Tod Hoppphan



*“Sometimes it seems like a man ain’t the master of his own destiny . . .
The ball takes a funny bounce here or a putt takes a funny little turn . . .”*

~ Sam Snead



As we are all aware, the Midwest lost one of its members on Saturday, June 30. Tod Hoppphan, superintendent of Elgin Country Club, husband to Debra, father to Chad, Jenna and Claire, nephew of Hans, and son of longtime MAGCS member Carl, was killed in an automobile accident while on his way to work. Words cannot express the sudden and tragic nature of this accident that took the life of a 37-year-old man. I had known Tod since our college days, and our paths seemed to cross frequently thereafter. Tod worked for his father at Aurora Country Club, and was responsible for the tree nursery that still exists there and which I pass on my way to the shop every morning. We would see each other at U of I alumni meetings. We’d see each other at MAGCS meetings and CAGCS meetings. My last correspondence with Tod was on the MAGCS message board, where we exchanged barbs about bunker edging. I never could have imagined that this would be our last discussion. Now we have only the memories—good memories of what a great guy he was. Generous is a word that comes to mind. Tod was always there to host a meeting, to help out a friend or to have a kind word. What I did not know became clear at the lovely memorial service on July 7—Tod was a devout Christian who played an integral part in his church. The impact he had on those around him was evidenced by the huge showing of friends and family there. We were treated to a glance at a side of Tod that many did not know existed—a man of God and church and family. A man whose purpose in life was as clearly defined as black on white. Tod knew what his life was about, and shared it with those around him in the best ways he was able—through drama, through humor and through love. Our deepest sympathies go out to Tod’s family and friends during this very trying time. 