

## Announcing 2003's Scholarship Winners: Brianne Smith, Bradley McDonald and Paul Schweiger

*In July, the MAGCS awarded \$1,000 scholarships to three bright and promising students. Brianne Smith, daughter of Jeff and Peggy, was honored with the George Minnis Scholarship; Bradley McDonald, son of Terrence and Susan, took home the Midwest scholarship; and Paul Schweiger, son of Bruce and Carol, received the John Buck Memorial Scholarship. These deserving young people earned the scholarships based on academic achievement, financial need and essays responding to the following topic: Would you consider today's golf course superintendent a guardian or destroyer of the environment? And why?*

Here are the thoughts of the scholarship class of 2003.



*Fred Behnke with scholarship winner Brianne Smith, daughter of Jeff Smith.*

### **Brianne Smith**

Since government studies show that today's pesticides and fertilizers no longer leach into ground water when properly applied, it is obvious that golf course superintendents are not destroyers of the environment. They take care of large open spaces of nature in cities where there is little other greenery. The golf courses that superintendents care for are similar to forest preserves and can serve as homes for native plants and trees as well as a sanctuary for birds and other wildlife. At golf courses, the turf itself is an important protector of nature as it can filter contaminants from rainfall. By growing healthy turf, superintendents aid in the turf's abilities to cool the atmosphere, prevent soil erosion, produce oxygen and recharge groundwater. All of these things are vital to keeping a healthy environment.

Golf course superintendents do more than directly help nature; how-

ever, they also raise public sentiment on environment issues. When office-dwelling business workers go out for a round of golf with their buddies, they play in the beautiful outdoors which has been cared for by the superintendent. When these people see how great nature can be on the golf course, it raises their awareness of how important it is to protect it. In conclusion, golf course superintendents are guardians of the environment not only because they take care of large spaces of nature, but because they provide a place for everyone to see the beauty of the great outdoors.



*Fred Behnke with scholarship winner Bradley McDonald, son of Terry McDonald.*

### **Bradley McDonald**

Natural beauty usually determines the status of the environment. Today's golf course superintendent maintains the environment's beauty and therefore is a guardian of the environment. It would be difficult to find an area that maintains its plants better than a golf course. A superintendent and his/her staff devote a great amount of time keeping the grass and trees of the golf course in tremendous condition. In addition to maintaining

the environment, golf courses improve the area by planting trees every year. Another aspect of the environment is wildlife. In my two years of working at a golf course, I have seen many different species. The animals range from birds, such as hawks, to larger animals such as fox and deer. In my life, there have only been a few places where I have seen animals such as these, and I have the opportunity to see them on a regular basis at a golf course. These courses even help the animals inhabiting the area. Many golf courses have bird houses installed on the course. No matter what the situation, some damage could be done to the environment. However, I feel that superintendents have minimized this compared to other people. With new technology such as electric mowers, less exhaust fumes are created. Also, most superintendents are reducing their pesticide use, while increasing organic fertilizers. Golf courses, unlike many places, have recycling programs installed. Overall, the golf course superintendent contributes in many ways to protecting the environment.

### **Paul Schweiger**

The golf course superintendent of today would be considered a guardian of the environment. Golf course superintendents protect the environment by maintaining the environmental health of the grounds in and around the golf course. Through proper use of herbicides, pesticides and fertilizers, superintendents help to maintain healthy vegetation on the

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## BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

Phil Zeinert, CGCS *Elgin Country Club*

*The following are highlights of the MAGCS Board of Directors meeting held Tuesday, July 1 at Bartlett Hills Golf Course. Full meeting minutes, once approved, are available on the Midwest Web site.*

- The Editorial Committee reported being busy with a survey that will guide the content and appearance of the *On Course* magazine in the future. Response rate has been satisfactory and possible changes will be implemented as dictated by the responses.
- The Board approved accounts payable for the month of June in the amount of \$14,917.04.
- Discussion occurred over the “no nonmembers” policy currently in place for monthly golf meetings. At present, none of the meetings are selling out. A motion was made to allow guests to participate in certain

golf events at the discretion of the Arrangements Committee, while still affording priority registration to members. The motion passed.

- The following new members were presented for approval and welcomed to MAGCS:

**Justin Barker**.....Class C  
Evanston Golf Club

**Chris Bordeleau**.....Class C  
North Shore Country Club

**Paul Witte**.....Class E  
Earth Works Natural  
Organic Products

**Brett Pacher**.....Class C  
Orchard Valley Golf Club

**Eric Gakstatter**.....Class E  
Discovery Management Group

- On behalf of the Environmental Committee, Gary Hearn gladly reported that more than 15 clubs participated in the Bird Watching Open with Olympia Fields Country Club taking top honors with 94 species of birds identified.

- Fred Behnke reported that more than 30 applications had been received for the executive director position. The executive members of the MAGCS and ITF will interview and select a candidate, tentatively by September 1, 2003.

- The next meeting is scheduled for August 5, 2003, at 10:00 a.m. at Bartlett Hills.



### People Make The Difference (continued from page 5)

representatives, from educators to Board members, indeed all MAGCS members. We have a wonderful team of people, in both elected and non-elected capacities, putting forth tremendous efforts for the betterment of our profession and Association. I am proud to be a small part of it!

Paul was right in saying, “It’s all about the people,” and I say, “It’s the people who make the difference and our Association special.”



### Scholarship Winners . . .

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golf course, which leads to an increase of nutrition of the grounds and its surroundings. With increased environment health comes increased wildlife. The areas of improved ecological health help to attract animals, and additional wildlife takes up residency in the surrounding area. This will happen because of increased vegetational nutrients supplied by the improved plant life. Some tend to think that chemical runoff from pesticides, herbicides and fertilizers would contaminate surrounding waterways and soils, but dense grass has been shown to be one of the best biological filters, consequently decreasing contaminant runoff to surrounding areas. The area of high-density grass may also help to filter out many other chemicals from agriculture or industry, which would actually clean areas of surrounding water. Green grass also supplies a great percentage of the oxygen necessary for aerobic life. The healthier a superintendent can make a golf course, the more oxygen the golf course can supply. Today’s golf course superintendent is a guardian of the environment, not a destroyer. They increase vegetation and increase wildlife in the area, help filter out chemicals from run-off and help generate a significant amount of oxygen.



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