

Illinois Golf Hall of Fame Inducts Oscar Miles




Oscar accepts his induction into the Illinois Golf Hall of Fame. By all accounts, Oscar was absolutely exuberant on this special night.

Every year, the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences rolls out the red carpet for Hollywood's finest actors and a worldwide television audience waits with bated breath to see how cinematic favorites fared. We look forward to the preface to each award: "And the Oscar goes to . . ."

Popular legend has it that the statuette earned its name by virtue of a resemblance to a certain Academy executive's Uncle Oscar. I, of course, think of my own Uncle Oscar. Like the statuette, he is absolutely golden. Now superintendent at The Merit Club, Oscar in the past plied his trade at notable clubs such as Butler National and Olympia Fields Country Club. He is a veteran tournament host (the 2000 U.S. Women's Open and a plethora of Westerns) and a consummate teacher, mentoring as many as 70 individuals into head superintendent positions. Not only have Oscar's accomplishments garnered him numerous honors, but they have fostered an enhanced appreciation for the entire greenkeeping profession. In crafting his storied career, Oscar simultaneously elevated the visibility, credibility and stature of superintendents everywhere.

was the occasion of his induction into the Illinois Golf Hall of Fame, and Oscar celebrated the honor with family (wife, Mardelle, and many others), friends and peers, including an enthusiastic delegation representing the MAGCS: Kevin DeRoo, Fred Behnke, Phil Zeinert, Tony Kalina, Gary Hearn, Luke Cella, and Brian and Pam Bossert.

After Bob Williams (Class of 1990) and Ray Gerber (Class of 2001), Oscar is only the third superintendent to claim a place in the Illinois Golf Hall of Fame. He certainly won't be the last, since greenkeepers at last are gaining some hard-earned and long-overdue recognition. The MAGCS extends hearty congratulations to Oscar on his well-deserved spot in the Hall of Fame—and I salute him for professional AND personal excellence. Proud, innovative, conscientious and bright, Oscar displays integrity and commitment, always. 

Photos by Jennifer Miles



Oscar reflects on the storied (and ongoing) career that has earned him a prominent place in the annals of Illinois golf history.

On October 10, 2003, at The Glen Club in Glenview, Oscar added yet another feather to his cap. This

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