



Reflections on the Passing of Midwest Members, Friends

Our good friend Dudley Smith deserves plaudits for his terrific job in writing recent obituaries in On Course for two good friends to so many of us, John Coghill and "Buz" Didier.

John Coghill and I came together on three distinct occasions of note: we first met as students in 1936 at the University of Massachusetts turf management school in Amherst. This was also Grace and John's honeymoon. Our next "meeting" was when John and I met by chance as patients in an Army hospital in England (1944); both of us had survived action in Normandy. He was an officer in the infantry and I was an officer in the combat engineers. The third time we came together was in 1949, when we attended the Dale Carnegie School of Public Speaking together in Chicago. Many fond memories, to say the least.

As to "Buz" Didier, I became acquainted with Buz when he and his brother David were working with their father, Raymond, in golf course construction. However, I had known Raymond from the 1940s when he was the superintendent at Tam O'Shanter in Niles. Raymond was our first Midwest GCSAA president in 1945 and 1946. Ray was a great innovator and a central figure in promoting golf via television. Ray rebuilt all of their greens and installed phone lines to every tee for the use of the press. After leaving Tam O'Shanter, Ray and his two sons bought a tree nursery in Mundelein, sold off some of the trees and built the Village Green Golf Club, which the family operated for a number of years.

This winter we also lost Peter Voykin, whose passing was well-reported by his brother Paul. This was quite a shock for all of us Midwest members.

The passing of these Midwest members leaves me with the feeling that at the present time, we have probably the greatest camaraderie within our membership that we have ever witnessed in our long history, dating back to 1926. Incidentally, MY first attendance dates back to approximately 1930! May I congratulate our present membership of today, each and every one of you, on your professionalism and enthusiasm—attributes we should and can all be proud of.



BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

Phil Zeinert, CGCS Elgin Country Club

The following are highlights of the MAGCS Board of Directors meeting held Tuesday, June 3 at Bartlett Hills Golf Course. Full meeting minutes, once approved, are available on the Midwest Web site.

- On Course contributing editor John Gurke presented a survey authored by Cathy Ralston working in collaboration with Dave Braasch and his entire Editorial Committee. It is a comprehensive On Course readership survey that was to be e-mailed/mailed to all Midwest members in June. The goal is to gain input to further improve an already solid magazine. The Board recommended several minor changes to be implemented before sending out the survey. Sylvia Lima indicated she would encourage commercial members to respond to the survey.
- Fred Behnke reported 20 applicants for the MAGCS executive director position.
- The Board voted to switch from the charge-it system presently used to process credit card transactions to the service provided by Fifth Third Bank. This will significantly reduce our expenses associated with credit card transactions.
- Tim Anderson has secured monthly meeting sites for 2004 and is still looking to fill the slate for several months during the years 2005 and 2006. He reports that our commercial members have been very gracious with their efforts to sponsor this year's monthly golf meetings.
- Luke Cella and the Education Committee will feature Darrick Robbins discussing deep-tine aerification at the July 8th meeting at Foxford Hills; Joe Diapoala will share his views on the chemistry and branding of new pesticides on August 11 at Bartlett Hills.
- Gary Hearn presented membership applications and the Board welcomed these new members to the MAGCS:

Samuel J. Wineinger	
Lesco Inc.	Class E
Nick A. Hongisto	
TPEC	Class E
- Gary Hearn and the Environmental Committee report that 22 member clubs participated in the Bird-Watching Open. Also discussed was a recent article from the *Chicago Tribune* concerning West Nile virus and those areas of Chicagoland experiencing the most sensitivity to the virus.
- The Board approved May expenses totaling \$28,549.67.

