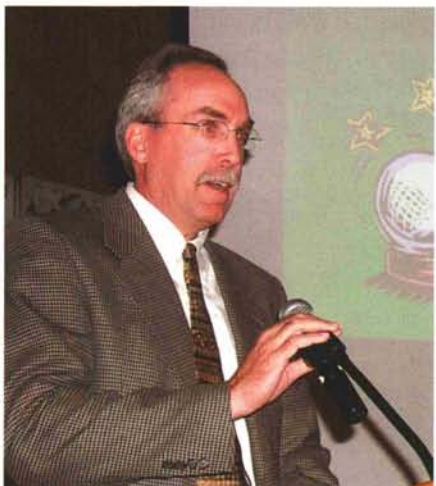


52nd Annual Midwest A Few New Twists to

November in Chicagoland signifies the coming of many things—compressors for irrigation-system winterizing, leafless trees signaling the end of another long season, and, of course, the annual Midwest Turf Clinic. On November 10, Medinah Country Club and Tom Lively, CGCS once again served as our gracious hosts for the 52nd rendition of our “fall classic.” Event chairman **Tim Anderson**, CGCS provided a wonderfully diverse lineup of educational speakers; moreover, he and his committee “stirred things up a bit” by rearranging some of the agenda items and condensing others. These efforts led to a more streamlined, fast-paced clinic that kept attendees alert and entertained. Not to be outdone by the clinic itself, the staff at Medinah treated us to another welcome change—a very nice hot lunch to re-energize us for the afternoon’s events. Approximately 120 members signed up for this year’s clinic, and I believe all who attended were impressed with the entire day.



Tom Lively with still-president Behnke.



Peter McCormick.

The day began with **Nick Hongisto** delivering the invocation, followed by president **Fred Behnke**, CGCS calling the annual meeting to order. In an effort to shorten this portion of the clinic, only officers gave brief reports, dispensing with the customary reading of each committee report. **Luke Cella** followed with his executive director’s report, highlighting our proposed bylaws changes among other items. Tom Lively was brought to the fore to receive a gift of appreciation from our president, and **Kevin DeRoo** followed with the Nominating Committee’s slate of candidates for the election. Once these items of business were accomplished, morning moderator **John Patrick Maksymiu** of River Forest Country Club introduced our first speaker: Peter McCormick of TurfNet, who gave us his “Strategies For Success and Survival in the 2000s.” Peter’s presentation included an important take-home message for the faster-paced world of today and tomorrow—shorten your timeline and plan ahead in five-year increments, as change occurs much faster than in the past. Next up was our friend **Bruce Williams**, CGCS of the Los Angeles Country Club, who followed Peter’s theme with a look into his “Crystal Ball.” Bruce had some highly visionary thoughts on where we in our industry will be in 25 years, including utilizing robotics to perform many golf course maintenance functions and an appetizing thought about “toilet-to-tap” water recycling.

Dave Ward took the podium next to describe his life change in going from tending Olympia Fields Country Club to rebuilding the old Cherry Hills C.C.—an abandoned public track—into the beautiful new Coyote Run G.C. Dave had apparently convinced his wife that although the move would involve a cut in pay, it would allow for much more family time and much lower stress. Oops! Dave’s presentation detailed the birth of the **Greg Martin**-designed and **Ryan, Inc.** Central-built course from the beginning, and provided great insight into the life of a grow-in superintendent.

Our next speaker, **Steve Cook**, CGCS, MG from Oakland Hills Country Club in Michigan, gave a highly enlightening and thorough look into what all is involved in hosting a major championship. Oakland Hills was the site of the Ryder Cup matches this past summer, and Steve’s account of the madness he and his staff went through to prepare for the tournament and to get the course back to normal afterward was mind-boggling.

In keeping with the Michigan theme, next at the podium was Mike

(continued on page 24)

Best Turf Clinic— a Grand Old Lady



Bruce Williams.



Dave Ward.



Steve Cook.



Mike Morris.



Robert Graziano with Scott Witte.



John Gurke, also with Scott Witte.



Brad Anderson.



Mark Gilmour of J.W. Turf.



Dan Howard of Master of the Links.



Eddie Fischer the election maestro.



Glen Kozlowski.



Fred the multitasker—shakes Kevin's hand AND performs Heimlich on himself at the same time.

Morris, CGCS of Crystal Downs Country Club in Frankfort. Mike's "Confessions of a Stimpaholic" detailed his efforts to find the perfect green speed for his course based on stimpmeter data, weather data, cultural practices (rolling, double-mowing, verticutting, etc.) and mechanical practices (grinding, lapping, etc.) information, and golfer input. His simple golfer survey asked, "How did you feel the greens were today?" with five responses offered: a) too slow, b) slow/OK, c) OK, d) fast/OK, and e) too fast. By compiling all this data over a period of two years, Crystal Downs found a *range* of speed deemed best by its members—in this case, between 9.5 and 10.5 feet. Interestingly, Mike found that the number one thing that affected green speed was reel sharpness, and that regular (weekly) grinding along with daily adjusting provided the best results for sustained speeds in the acceptable range. Mike's work is detailed in Dr. Tom Nikolai's book, *Putting Green Speed*, which will be available soon, and he will be featured again at the "Ski and Learn Symposium" at Crystal Mountain on March 7 and 8. More information on this cool idea will be posted in upcoming issues of *On Course*.

The next agenda item was lunch, and the new addition of a hot buffet meal went over HUGE with the assembled masses. When everyone had their fill, it was back to the auditorium for **Keith Krause** of Aurora Country Club to moderate the afternoon session, which began with the presenting of awards and checks. **Scott Witte** announced that the 2004 Ray Gerber Editorial Award

winner was **Jon Jennings**, CGCS of Chicago Golf Club for his article "Burn Baby, Burn" and that **Robert Graziano** won the Fred D. Opperman Editorial Award for his article titled "Earthworms: Friend or Foe." Two new awards were given at this year's clinic, including Scott's brainchild "Golden Pen," which was presented to a very shocked and appreciative contributing editor; and the "President's Award for Meritorious Service" presented by Fred Behnke to **Brad Anderson**, CGCS for all of his hard work on both the MAGCS Family Tree and his resurrection of the Midwest Breezes portion of *On Course*. Fred also accepted the donations for the John Buck Memorial Scholarship fund, presented by **Mark Gilmour**, and the Paul Burdett Memorial Scholarship fund, started this year by **Mike O'Neill** of Master of the Links and presented by **Dan Howard**.

The **Eddies** were next—**Fischer and Braunsky**—to run the election of our Board for 2005. Once the votes were in, the annual meeting was suspended while our final speakers of the day took the stage. First up was officer Ray Ranne of the Chicago Police Department, who enlightened us on the new popular crime of identity theft. Ray had a great way to avoid having someone sift through your trash in search of documents that could be used to steal your identity—shred them and put them inside a used diaper before disposing of them. Lovely—what do we use if there are no infants in the house, I wonder? Finally, our keynote speaker Glen Kozlowski, former Chicago Bear and current WGN Radio host, shared

some of his favorite stories from the good old days back when the Bears were actually good. His memories of Walter Payton, Dan Hampton, Jim McMahon, Steve McMichael and the crew were priceless—especially his recollection of the aftermath of getting whacked on a special teams play, peering through the earhole of his helmet while hearing Alice the maid sing the Brady Bunch song. Guess you had to be there . . .

The day ended with the annual meeting being called to order one last time for the reading of election results. Your Board for 2005 includes president **Phil Zeinert**, vice president **Gary Hearn**, secretary/treasurer **Tim Anderson**, and directors **Paul Bastron**, **Tony Kalina**, **Todd Schmitz** and **Jay Druhan**. Congratulations, gentlemen! Fred then thanked Kevin DeRoo for his years of invaluable service to MAGCS and passed his gavel to Phil to wrap up the day's activities.

Many thanks to Medinah Country Club, to our speakers and moderators, to Tim Anderson and the Education Committee, and to our sponsors—Nels J. Johnson Tree Experts, Palatine Oil, TPEC, Nadler Golf Car Sales, Syngenta, Arthur Clesen, Inc. and Central Sod Farms—for a great day.



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