



# A Career Genealogy

*I hope everyone had a great holiday season. The holiday season for the Zeinert family involves a four-hour trip northward to cheese land. The destination is an 80-acre farm that now serves as my parents' Christmas tree farm. The farm resembled Old MacDonald's Farm when I was growing up. The farm had an assortment of cows, beef cattle, hogs, a horse, a sheep, chickens, ducks, dogs and cats. Now the farm sells Christmas trees as cut-your-own and wholesale. For several years, a Christmas tree lot in St. Charles sold my family's trees.*

*When I could drive, I picked up a full-time summer job at the local golf course. This nine-hole undulating course, Maple Hills, was my introduction into the care of turf.*

During the holiday season, my three brothers and sister and their respective families gather to celebrate the holiday season. The children play their games while the adults play cards and Trivial Pursuit and watch a few bowl games. While watching our children play, we also find time to reminisce what our childhood was like growing up at the farm.

My childhood was very busy. I helped with the care of the animals and also worked for a little spending money by picking cucumbers, picking rock and baling hay. When I could drive, I picked up a full-time summer job at the local golf course. This nine-hole undulating course, Maple Hills, was my introduction into the care of turf. We mowed the fairways and roughs with the same gang mower—we just adjusted the height. After working two years at Maple Hills, I was able to secure a much higher-paying job at a lumber mill. The Tigerton Lumber Company employed my grandpa as an engineer for most of his adult life and that was my ticket to the great job. I was very fortunate to work with my grandpa on several projects, fortunate to experience Grandpa's thought process and wit that I now, being older, can appreciate as bordering genius.

Life wasn't all work and no play while growing up. It seemed as if I was all work **and** play, and very little sleep. Some things never change. I love competition and participated in all sorts of sporting activities. These activities included football, basketball and baseball, hunting and fishing. I also found time to participate in 4-H, FFA and student council. I have many fond memories of the people and the relationships developed during competition on the field, while fishing trout at a nearby stream, and showing livestock at the county fair.

I left the secure world of a high school that graduated 120 students to attend a university that enrolled 40,000 students. The baseball coaches at the University of Wisconsin enticed me to play for the Badgers. Although my talent fell short and my baseball career lasted only one year, I fell in love with the university. I switched majors from agricultural business to soil science during my junior year. The soil science department had a specialty in turf care. I managed to graduate in four years during the summer of 1985.

My first assistant position was working for Pat Norton at Cherokee Country Club in Madison, Wisconsin. Pat is now managing Nettle Creek Golf Course in Morris, Illinois. After two years of invaluable experience and very little pay, I headed south to Genoa, Illinois as superintendent at The Oak Club of Genoa. This position demanded being a jack-of-all-trades and master of most. The job required wearing the hat of superintendent, mechanic and irrigation technician. I was welcomed and befriended by MAGCS

*(continued on page 4)*

member Dan Murray, who was then working at Kishwaukee Country Club in DeKalb. Dan helped me join the MAGCS and the NWGCS.


After eight years at The Oak Club of Genoa, my career took me still further south to DeKalb as superintendent of Kishwaukee Country Club. It was a new challenge. The challenge was communicating with a green committee and board of directors. The challenge was balancing member expectations with money. My experience with a very low-budget course prior to Kishwaukee Country Club proved invaluable in meeting the expectations of Kishwaukee's members. I also became involved with the MAGCS by serving on the Golf Committee, which led to running for the Board of Directors.

My next career challenge came with assuming the role of superintendent at Elgin Country Club. It has been a fun challenge meeting the expectations of the members here at Elgin. They are very supportive of my serving the MAGCS members, and especially this year, serving as president of the MAGCS.

The current MAGCS team serving our membership shares the same goal of providing our members with opportunities to learn, obtain and utilize information and develop relationships. The team consists of: past president Fred Behnke, in charge of benevolence and by-laws; vice president Gary Hearn, organizing efforts in media relations and public relations; secretary/treasurer Tim Anderson, recording minutes and sending notices; director Dave Braasch, securing arrangements; director Tony Kalina, lining up education; director Scott Witte, drumming up editorial; director Paul Bastron, in charge of golf and scholarship; director Todd Schmitz, heading advocacy and compliance; and director Jay Druhan, in charge of membership.

We also have new commercial advisor Sharon Riesenbeck providing input from our commercial members, class C advisor Chad Kempf working with the assistant superintendents and Ed Braunsky relating what has and has not worked in the past with updates from the Past Presidents

*The members at Elgin are very supportive of my serving the MAGCS members, and especially this year, serving as president of the MAGCS.*

Council. We have once again gladly entrusted Cathy Ralston as editor of our great *On Course* magazine and John Gurke and his writing skills as editor of "the Bull Sheet." Our team looks forward to meeting your expectations. 

## DO YOU EVER HAVE TO GROW GRASS IN A HURRY?

- ‡ Is it tough to keep enough grass on your practice tee?
- ‡ A week after a repair do your divots look like grass or sand?
- ‡ How do your fairways hold up under heavy use?
- ‡ How does your turf endure very dry conditions?

Use compost to help solve your turf problems.

- ‡ Compost has 25%+ organic content
- ‡ Compost is Rich in essential micronutrients
- ‡ Compost contains active families of beneficial microbes
- ‡ Compost retains 10 to 15 times its weight in water



*GreenCycle* Incorporated  
400 Central Avenue, Suite 115  
Northfield, Illinois 60093  
847-441-6606  
[www.greencycle.net](http://www.greencycle.net)