



# Average to Exceptional

*When I started my career in Turfgrass Management, it began as a love for all things green and growing. It was a love for being outside and working with my hands. It was so simple back then.*

Since I was 16 years old, I knew I wanted to be a golf course superintendent. I made that my goal, and in 10 years time I was fortunate to achieve it. I was young, naïve and energetic with the idea that I could change the world overnight. Unfortunately, my first year as a superintendent was the scorching summer of 1995. Most of us remember how humble Mother Nature made us feel that year. Well, the humble still remains here with your new MAGCS president nearly 15 years later.

The truth is that I always considered myself very average at best. I was never the “born leader” or the “gifted athlete” or the most popular guy in town. I’m not exactly a charismatic speaker, and my voice is one that mellows into the crowd from time to time. I was always just a regular guy, your classic underachiever in many things...except when it came to making things green.

I’ve always loved to work outside on God’s green earth and you’ll find that I unashamedly believe God created it. It wasn’t the “love of the game” that brought me to this career; it was the “love of the GREEN”. Most of my friends would probably agree because they’ve seen me swing a golf club. Remember...I’m kind of “average”, so I maintain a very average or above handicap of 18.

I remember my earliest days as assistant superintendent at Barrington Hills Country Club when I went to my first monthly meeting. It was the January meeting at Arrowhead Golf Club in Wheaton. I was getting to know industry juggernauts like Mike Bavier, Roger Stewart, and Joel Purpur to name a few. I think back to the early impressions I had about the MAGCS and its members. I’ll always be grateful for the superintendents that reached out to me and made me feel comfortable during those

early days of my career. Those experiences spurred me on to continue getting involved with the MAGCS. I have been motivated to be a hard core proponent of the MIDWEST, and I am committed to serving its constituents. I have benefited greatly from this association’s commitment to providing networking, education and career advancement opportunities, and I’m excited to carry the torch.

The vision set forth by our “Sodfathers” is noble, and worth the investment of service to the industry. The experiences that I have encountered while on the Board of Directors have stretched me in ways I did not see possible. That “stretching” takes work, but in doing so, I have moved several of my skill sets from average to exceptional (excluding my golf game). So with the help of the current Board of Directors and the members of the MAGCS, I will continue to carry out the vision of the MAGCS EXCEPTIONALLY!!

We will:

- 1.) Continue representing the golf course management profession both locally and nationally.
- 2.) Work to meet the developmental needs of the membership through education, research and other technologies.
- 3.) Continue being a resource for employment opportunities throughout the industry.
- 4.) Work hard to promote the profession of key golf course management positions throughout the industry. **-OC**