



Happy New Year!

Now that it's the new year, it is the perfect time to introduce yourself to your peers, and what easier way than to fill out the MAGCS Personalities Profile? Just go to magcs.org, log in, and click on the Members tab and get creative. Your profile will be featured in *On Course* along with your favorite photograph of yourself, giving the members of your association an opportunity to get to know you, which can be a good thing, especially if you are selling something (and who isn't?). It's fun!

If you know of an equipment technician who you deem worthy of TurfNet's Golden Wrench Award for the Technician of the Year honor, you need to hurry and nominate him or her—the deadline is the 19th of February. The criteria on which the award is based include crisis management, effective budgeting, environmental awareness, helping to further and promote the careers of colleagues and employees, interpersonal communications, inventory management and cost control, overall condition and dependability of rolling stock, shop safety, and work ethic. Send nominations to jreitman@turfnet.com or mail them to 1500 Park Center Drive, Orlando, FL 32835, or fax them to 407-513-9108. Hurry!

Don't forget to do the Chicago thing and vote early (possibly too late for that) and OFTEN for our local representatives for Lebanon Turf and Golfdom's Dog of the Year contest to be awarded at the Golf Industry Show in San Diego next month. The dogs in question are Park Ridge Country Club's Tessa (belonging to **Joel Purpur, CGCS**) and Marley (**Nick Walters'** pooch), who were the featured dogs in August in the Dog Days of Golf 2010 calendar. Fill out as many ballots as you can and let Joel and Nick bring the hardware home!

Congratulations from the bottom of my heart to **Ed Fischer, CGCS** on his recent retirement after a long and storied career that began with Ed working for Dudley Smith at Silver Lake Country Club as a young lad, continuing with his long tenure at Butler National Golf Club where he hosted numerous Western Opens, and culminating with an even longer stay of 30 years at Old Elm Club. Ed has served as mentor to many current superintendents—myself included—and is the absolute epitome of all that is good about our business, demonstrating an unselfish willingness to share his vast experience with those around him, and always with the utmost of class. If there were a manual on how to comport

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DATES TO REMEMBER

January 20-22 – Mid-America Horticultural Trade Show at McCormick Place in Chicago, IL.

February 5-7 – GCSAA National Championship and Golf Classic in Palm Springs, CA.

February 8-12 – 2010 GCSAA Education Conference in conjunction with the Golf Industry Show in San Diego, CA.

February 10 – MAGCS Hospitality Reception at the Hotel Solamar in San Diego, CA.

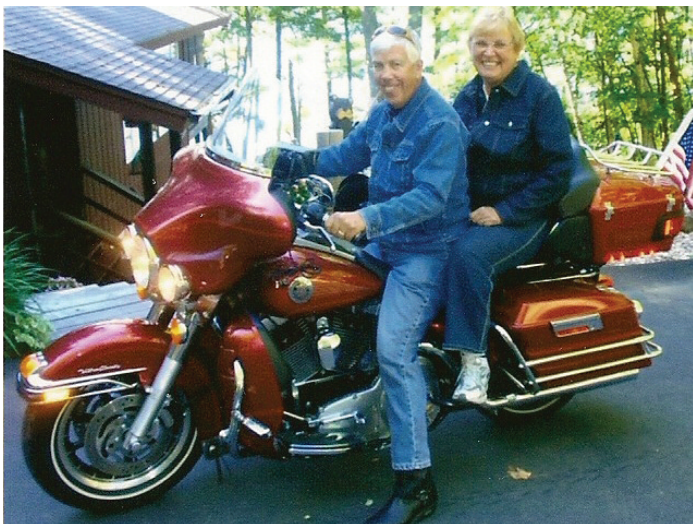
February 19 – Deadline to nominate your equipment technician for TurfNet's Technician of the Year Award.

March 6-14 – Chicago Flower & Garden Show at Navy Pier in Chicago, IL.

March 16 – MAGCS monthly meeting at Midwest Golf House in Lemont, IL.

March 18-20 – International Golf Course Equipment Manufacturers Association's Virtual Trade Show at an internet-connected computer near you.

oneself as a golf course superintendent, Ed would have been the model by which all others could benefit. We wish Ed and Jan all the best in their future endeavors—which I imagine will include playing a lot of golf—and offer our congratulations on a long and illustrious career.



Ed and Jan Fischer getting an early jump on enjoying retirement.

Congratulations also to two men who are just starting their careers as golf course superintendents: **Ben McGargill**, who previously was an assistant superintendent for **Steve Cook, CGCS MG** at Oakland Hills Country Club is the new golf course superintendent at Wynstone Golf Club; and **Scott Vincent**, former assistant superintendent for **Don Cross, CGCS** at Skokie Country Club was named golf course superintendent at Onwentsia Club, taking over for the retiring **Skip Willms, CGCS**. Best of luck, gentlemen!

Well, next month is the big event—the GCSAA National Championship and Golf Classic in Palm Springs followed by the Education Conference and Golf Industry Show in sunny San Diego. For those planning to “Kick it West to Success,” there is plenty to do while you are there. Among the highlights this year: The various golf events in Palm Springs including the championship, the golf classic, and the Four-Ball mixer; Celebrate GCSAA! on the 9th (formerly the Opening Session and Welcoming Reception) which will feature the presentation of the Old Tom Morris Award to Judy Rankin along with the other prestigious honors and awards; the keynote addresses by Chris Gardner (author of *The Pursuit of Happyness*) and Brian Little, PhD at the General Sessions on the 10th and 11th; the new Show Floor Happy Hour on the 11th from 4 to 6 pm; the new Celebrating Certification! Event (formerly the Certification Luncheon) on the 12th; the various field trips, sessions and seminars throughout the week; the trade show which is always a rompin’ stompin’ good time; and of course the MAGCS Hospitality Reception on the 10th at the Hotel Solamar. Many of our MAGCS members will be giving presentations at the Conference which shouldn’t be missed, including **John Ekstrom**, **Chuck Anfield** (whose presentation isn’t that bad), **Bruce Williams**, **Erwin McKone**, **Tommy Witt**, **Jon Jennings**, and **Bruce Branham** (I hope I haven’t forgotten anyone).

And although there are several GIS events before 2014 when we return to Orlando, GCSAA and its GIS partners pulled a major coup that will make the 2014 Show one of the best bargains in its history. GIS partners recently learned that they had placed the winning bid in an auction by the Professional Convention Management Association (I wonder if they have a convention?) for a package of services at the Orange County Convention Center in 2014. The bid of \$175,000 will ultimately save the partners around \$335,000 over the value of the package, which includes exhibit space, meeting rooms, and other discounted services. And of course these huge savings will be passed on to all attendees in the form of an envelope stuffed with cash! Not.

Good luck to those competing in the golf classic, and best wishes for a safe trip to San Diego to all attending.

Congratulations to **Dave Groelle, CGCS** who recently was recertified with GCSAA. Obviously Dave is still working on his American Snowmobile Society (ASS) certification...



There was a very cool item in the news recently about the Chicago High School for Agricultural Sciences, a public school on the City’s southwest side which described the students’ collaborative effort in the construction of a 3-hole golf course on a preciously unused waste area adjacent to the school. With the help of an architect, the students cleared the land (including disposing of junked cars and various other items), graded, shaped, drained, grassed, and landscaped the course which is now maintained and operated by students, is handicapped-accessible, and is open to the public for use at no cost. Over 300 students took part in the project, which has received acclaim from national media outlets (and now this esteemed publication as well). Feel good stuff that.

Looks like there is some good news on the Emerald Ash Borer front. The team of Michigan State University entomologist Dave Smiley, PhD, research technician Kevin Newhouse, and research assistant Terry Davis conducted trials from 2005 to 2008 on ash trees in East Lansing and found that at least