SUPER -N- SITE
Luke Cella, *MAGCS*

Greg Thalmann, CGCS -N-

Since 1982, the year before Fox Run Golf Links opened for play, Greg Thalmann, CGCS has been at the helm, quite literally. In his 28 years at Fox Run, Greg has overseen many different projects including installation of a continuous cart path system, irrigation system upgrades, planting plans and landscape improvements. Among the more recent projects at Fox Run Golf Links has been the renovation of the clubhouse in 2006-07. An addition was added to the building that now houses the pro shop and grill area. A few walls were added to create an event room that can seat 120 guests comfortably.

Another project that never ends is the shoreline stabilization of the Salt Creek. Greg has utilized many different methods to hold the banks together, each gets tested every year. In fact, if you are in the market for a stabilization project, give Greg a call, I know he can help you out. Sharing of information is one thing Greg loves about the profession and looks to MAGCS as the conduit in which this occurs. Greg is a proud member of MAGCS, having served on the Board for five years starting in 1996. Greg spearheaded the Scholarship Committee back then and is to thank for all of the good that it has done since then.

Greg Thalmann, CGCS (third from left) with his "Midwest Family" - Tom Savage, Luke Strojny and Ernie Corsi at the Hospitality Reception in San Diego this past February.

Greg happily offered up his par 70 / 6300 yard facility at the last minute because of a conflict at our scheduled venue for September. To the tenured superintendent, rolling with it has always come easy. The course, thanks to Greg and his staff will offer a fun and challenging venue for our college scramble.

Fox Run Golf Links was built in the floodplain of a branch of the Salt Creek, on property donated to Elk Grove Village by a home builder. The course was designed by William Newcomb, a Michigan native. The course is not intentionally penal in design but the water does come into play on 12 of the 18 holes. To offset this, Newcomb sparingly placed bunkers in areas to direct golf shots toward the desired line. Greg has created buffer zones and let plantings grow along the water banks, there are not many hazards that sneak up on you. Large greens are very receptive to both the air and ground game, offering a shot for players of all talents.

Upon entering Fox Run, one can't help but notice the annuals and perennials around the clubhouse. Thigh high impatiens greet each player as they walk through the entrance. Greg explained many people ask him how they get so big. He attributes their size to a seaweed based fertilizer he has been using for several years. "I think the nutrients have just built up in the soil over the years and offer a steady stream of food throughout the growing season." Gardening is one of Greg's pleasures away from the course but it comes to life in the clubhouse landscape.

Greg has been active in the business a long time and sees the computer as one of the greatest technological advances that has changed the way he operates. He loves the way he can store information on his computer and pull it up with a few keystrokes. This process becomes more valuable with each year, Greg jokes. Recently the Village of Elk Grove upgraded its intranet. One advantage Greg has utilized is a shared calendar.

Stored online, anyone on the staff can access it and view what is scheduled for the entire facility. It certainly makes things easier when secluding maintenance around outings and other events and vice versa.

Hiring the right people is very important to Greg. "I have a lot of good people around me and I let them do what they were hired to do." Greg believes one must have a solid knowledge and understanding about an operation to oversee it. But just as important is hiring the right people and letting them do their job. Greg has been successful with this mindset and Fox Run Golf Links is the testament.

Certainly the trials of this summer have pressed Greg, but one thing he is used to – turf under water. If the property receives ¾ -1" of rainfall, the course takes a day to drain. It is not uncommon for Fox Run to close for a day following a heavy rain, something the regular players have all figured out. However, the regulars always return to play as the water recedes because of the conditions and golfing value Greg and his staff provide. Greg's assistant Pascual Perez has been with him since 1984, a testament to Greg's ability to surround himself with good people. This belief has allowed Greg to be the successful General Manager of the property for the village of Elk Grove since the late 1990's.

Greg looks forward to retiring one day, but not until his next project is done. Fox Run Golf Links has hired Greg Martin to design a facelift for the course. Though none of this will occur at least until 2011, Greg is excited about the changes that are to come under his care. After sharing a few moments with him, it is easy to see his passion and share his excitement about golf course superintendenting.

Greg and his wife Trudi live in Mt. Prospect and have welcomed their first grandchild into this world, Cora born to their daughter Abby and son-in-law Lewis only a few weeks ago. Their other daughter, Sarah, currently lives in St. Louis and works for the St. Louis Zoo as a meeting planner. Sarah wishes to relocate back to the Chicago area as the job market opens. Their son Nathan lives in Chicago and works for CDW.

The last time Greg hosted the Midwest was in July of 2004. I remember, I had to play with Braunsky and ever since then I've had trouble with a ringing in my ears. I look forward to Fox Run Golf Links this September, as I know Greg is happy to have us back. **-OC**

As I was packing up my camera gear, I overheard one player upon completion of his round at Fox Run Golf Links say, "I lost seven balls out there today,"

"When we had the 4" rainfall this summer, the tee sign on 7 was completely submerged," Greg explained. Built on a floodplain, Fox Run Golf Links was planned to take on water from the get go.