

## FEATURE I

Dave Radaj, CGCS, Green Acres Country Club



# Friend of the Wee One, Friend to All

*For those of you reading this who are already friends of the Wee One Foundation, I extend my sincere gratitude and thanks for all you have contributed. I am continually amazed with the individuals who step up without being asked and give. They run fundraisers, host golf outings, and open their wallets on behalf of the Wee One Foundation to help a friend in need. For those of you who are not yet aware of the Wee One, or who need a better understanding of what it is all about, please read on.*

The Wee One Foundation was started by a group of people that had the great fortune to know Wayne Otto, CGCS. Wayne was a man who never met a stranger. Whether you were in his presence for the first time or the thousandth time, you immediately felt at ease. His humble demeanor radiated kindness and warmth. He made you feel secure no matter what was happening in your life. I remember, when starting out as a Superintendent, feeling overwhelmed by the usual heat pressures, disease pressures, or pressures of life. I would be at a meeting or gathering and so would Wayne. He would instantly bring me back from the edge. After the conversation ended, I would realize that we had barely touched on my turf issues. He was more interested in me than my grass. I always left feeling as if I could conquer anything that came my way.

It is in this image that the Wee One Foundation was formed and continues to operate. Like Wayne, the Wee One is here as a comforting feeling, knowing a friend has your back.

Wee One carries out this mission by assisting golf course management professionals or their dependents who have incurred overwhelming medical expenses and are without comprehensive insurance or adequate financial resources.

To date, the Wee One has dispersed \$450,000 to people in 17 different states. In one regard, I am proud of these numbers; and in another regard I am disappointed. I am disappointed because the funds are from a rather small group. The group of Wee One members and contributors is made up of both individuals and businesses. I'm not going to list names, because this isn't about recognition or what's in it for them. I hope that my family and your family are never in the position to need assistance. True friendship is giving of yourself, with no expectation of being repaid.

The Wee One Foundation is not just for Wisconsin or Illinois Superintendents. We are here for all our fellow golf course management professionals no matter where they

practice this great profession. This includes our friends in the business of providing us with the tools to keep our golf courses in outstanding condition. Wee One is proud to have extended help to numerous Superintendents (active and retired), Assistant Superintendents, and Sales Representatives over the years. Out of respect for privacy, the names and conditions of the recipients aren't made public. What I can do, is share a few notes we've received. The following are examples of how your financial support can make all the difference.

### **To the Wee One Board of Directors,**

I would like to begin by saying thank you, however that just doesn't seem like enough. I recently received a check from your organization to help with my medical expenses incurred from my recent fight with cancer. I can not express in words how grateful my family and I are. I was shocked to find out that the first superintendent and assistant were the ones who submitted my information to you. I am truly blessed to work in the golf industry and be surrounded by such wonderful colleagues. Once again, I would like to say thank you to all your members and corporate partners. The organization you have created is second to none. If there is ever anything I can do to help please let me know."

### **Dear Wee One Foundation:**

"I have always been extremely proud of the profession I chose but never more so than the day Rick came to my house. I am not afraid to admit I wept heavily that day and find myself letting go even now as I write this. God has blessed me in so many ways and your foundation is but one of the better blessings bestowed upon my family and me. What more could one man want or need?"

*(continued on page 7)*

The largest concern we have is whether we can meet the needs of all who come calling. We make a living in a unique community that is about sharing knowledge, equipment, and camaraderie. By becoming a friend of The Wee One Foundation you can assist the people in this community when they need you most.

Every September many friends meet in Sheboygan Wisconsin to celebrate Wayne's love of golf and its people. We golf, drink beer, eat tacos and brats while telling tales of the past season and solving everyone's turf problems. The most important part of the day is that we come together in his memory and carry on in his spirit of friendship. This can't miss day is the original but not the only fundraiser. Many other states have started fundraising on behalf of the Wee One Foundation and the Midwest is no exception. The MAGCS has raised over \$70,000 to benefit the Wee One's work and has planned another event in January of 2012. I hope you are able to attend. Furthermore, I understand that the economy stinks and money is tighter than ever at work and home. Please take a look at something in your life that you spend \$75, \$100, \$200, or whatever amount on and seriously consider using it to help out a friend.

Wayne was the first friend of the Wee One. We hope you will become the next.

Visit <http://weeone.org> and become a friend TODAY! -OC

# TURF TOUGH!

**ASK ABOUT OUR TURF SPECIALS!**

- New & Used Sales/Leasing •
- Full Service Department For All Brands •



Golf, Utility, Multi-Pass, & Beverage Cars Available

Tournament Fleet Cars For Special Events!

## HARRIS

## GOLF CARS

SALES & SERVICE

**HOURS:**  
Mon.-Fri. 8-5 • Sat. 9-1



**YAMAHA**







*Tomberlin Electric Vehicles are street legal!*

**ILLINOIS LOCATION:**  
549 Heartland Drive Suite A  
Sugar Grove, IL 60554  
(6 Miles West of Aurora)  
**(630) 466-5239**

**WISCONSIN LOCATION:**  
13900 Leetsbir Road  
Sturtevant, WI 53177  
(West of Racine on Int. 94)  
**(262) 886-2816**

**IOWA LOCATION:**  
9875 Kapp Court  
Peosta, IA 52068  
(7 Miles West of Dubuque)  
**(563) 582-7390**

Please visit us online at [www.harrisgolfcars.com](http://www.harrisgolfcars.com)

## THE LITTLE GIANT

### RTV500

**Starts quicker.  
Runs quieter.  
Stops smoother.**

The new Kubota RTV500 compact utility vehicle has all the comfort, technology and refinements of a larger utility vehicle. Available in Kubota orange and Realtree® camouflage, the four wheel drive RTV500 is ready for work or play. Visit your local Kubota dealer to test drive the only utility vehicle of its kind.



**Martin Implement, Inc.**  
18405 115th Avenue  
Orland Park, IL 60467  
(708) 349-8430



[www.kubota.com](http://www.kubota.com)

\*Realtree is a registered trademark of Jordan Outdoor Enterprises, Ltd.  
© Kubota Tractor Corporation, 2008





## See how equipment and agronomics can work together.

Only John Deere Golf offers both a full selection of golf maintenance equipment and soft goods from top name brands. Plus advice on how to pick the best of each for your course. Call us today.



Think Ahead.

Equipment Sales:  
J.W. Turf, Inc. Hampshire, IL  
847-683-4653

Agronomic Sales:  
Chicago South: Paul Yerkes,  
630-514-9373  
Chicago North: Charles Hill,  
630-768-9275