

my own humble opinion—Peter Jacobsen has been selected to receive the 2012 Old Tom Morris Award, which will be presented during the 2012 GCSAA Education Conference at Celebrate GCSAA! presented by Syngenta on February 28th in Las Vegas. GCSAA's most prestigious honor, the Old Tom is presented each year to an individual who "through a continuing lifetime commitment to the game of golf has helped to mold the welfare of the game in a manner and style exemplified by Old Tom Morris."

MAGCS lost one of its longtime members on July 28th when **Hans Hopphan** passed away peacefully in his home in Aurora. Hans was my predecessor at Aurora Country Club, and also served as superintendent at The Bourne and at Blackberry Oaks Golf Course before hanging up his work boots—and he was the epitome of the working superintendent—to pursue his favorite pastimes of woodworking and gardening. Condolences to the family of Hans, including son-in-law **Steve Holich** and brother **Carl Hopphan**.



Hans Hopphan

When thinking about the many wonderful aspects of being a golf course superintendent, few compare to the feeling one gets when taking that early morning drive around the course with faithful dog in tow, checking out the beauty and splendor of a sunrise over a dewy expanse of green with a hint of autumn in the air. Then you get to the 13th green and reality hits you in the face like a bitch-slap.



Reality in this case meant a skid-steer, a chain, and a few gallons of diesel fuel and hydraulic oil to get this ship righted.



On a positive note, it DID happen in a bunker, which is nice.

Congratulations to **Alan Hill**, former first assistant superintendent at Ruth Lake Country Club on being named the new superintendent of Klein Creek Golf Club in Winfield, IL. Alan spent 8 years as part of the Ruth Lake family under **Dan Marco, CGCS**, and is replaced by new first assistant Jeff Sievert. Best of luck in your exciting new position, Alan!



Kyle Jacobsen of Twin Orchard Country Club had some very special visitors recently when the guys from Orange County Choppers dropped in with one of their latest creations.



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