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front cover

As meteorological winter ends, the long range forecast still favors much colder temperatures. Much of talk among Midwest members is what shape will the turf be when we finally see a thaw?

PHOTO: Luke Cella

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The Midwest Hospitality Reception took place in conjunction with the Golf Industry Show. Over 350 members and guests enjoyed an evening in Florida.

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DATES

2014 MIDWEST EVENTS

- 03/06 Midwest March Meeting, Lemont, IL
- 04/29 Midwest April Meeting, Silver Lake Country Club
- 05/05 Midwest / ITF Combined, CC of Peoria
- 06/16 Midwest June Meeting, Aurora Country Club

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On Course is published monthly with original member content. For advertising opportunities please call 630-243-7900.

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2014 Event Planning



Justin Van Landuit
Briarwood Country Club

GIS 2014 is in the past so now it's time to start thinking about the 2014 season. I'm finding it hard to do as everything is still so white and cold. What an unreal winter we are having here in Chicago. Normally I enjoy this time of year and I like to see it go long.

Like most this year, I'm ready to see the snow disappear and the mercury rise. No matter the complaints, in a few months the our season will be kicking in full gear, not only with work on the golf course, but with Midwest education and golf events too. Our lineup for 2014 is shaping up though some details still need to be ironed out at a couple of our sites. As every year the committee tries to spread the events around the area, and it seems this year we've accomplished just that.

Our March Meeting is the last of the education only events and is early this year, March 6 at Midwest Golf House. The education committee has done a great job of lining up speakers for this half day of education on fungicide research, new products, and golf history. Our staff will cover the topics and bring you a recap of the topics in a future issue of On Course.

April we get into the swing of things as, David Kohley and Silver Lake Country Club will open their doors for us to carry out the annual spring scramble. Dave, our MAGCS President, is excited to have us come enjoy the golf course. We can all hope that by then the snow is gone and the sun is warm! (We purposefully scheduled the first outdoor event in the south for this reason.)

The month of May we travel further south to the Country Club of Peoria, as Andy Morris, Golf Course Superintendent welcomes us for the combined ITF/MAGCS outing. This event should be great; the ITF/MAGCS seem to always find a top notch place to play. Andy has done a great deal of work over the years and I've heard nothing but rave reviews about it. It will be a nice change of scenery to have some rolling hills and undulations that are scarce around Chicagoland.

In June we stay near Chicago, but head out west to Aurora Country Club to visit John Gurke, CGCS. The June event is always well attended as the Dom Grotti trophy is up for grabs and the Assistants' Championship is competed. Honor your Assistant by treating them to a day of golf with you. Maybe you'll come home with some hardware and a permanent place in the MAGCS history books.

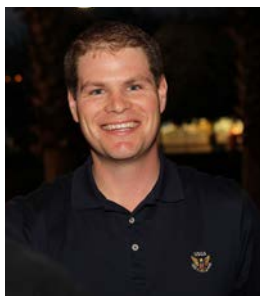
The Family Night Picnic at the Kane County Cougar game has been a routine event for a Saturday night in the summer for our MAGCS members. This year we are changing things up; a family picnic is being planned for our families at the Midwest Golf House. We're planning to set up some games and golf for the children and maybe a few for adults, with food and refreshments for all. Last year, we also welcomed a new event in the month of July, the 9 or I should say 12 hole event. The event was held and great reviews followed. Plans are still being put into place for this event for 2014 and a venue will be announced soon.

Last season, Steve VanAcker hosted the MAGCS Championship in late August before the busy month of September was upon us. Following that lead, Ryan Tully will host the MAGCS Championship the last week of August at Harborside International. The course will definitely provide a challenge to all our competitors. We're also working on the format and scoring for the Championships to make things go more smoothly.

..... continued on page 15

Working for the

USGA



Elliott Dowling, USGA

Working for the USGA, specifically working national championships has been a career goal of mine since volunteering for the 2006 PGA Championship at Medinah Country Club. All of you must be thinking: hey stupid, that was a PGA Tour event, how does that relate to working for the USGA?

The thrill of tournament golf got under my skin during my week volunteering for Tom Lively. I knew then, I wanted to be a part of this...somehow.

Unfortunately for the USGA and the golf community, Stanley Zontek passed away August 2012. His passing created an opening with the USGA's Mid-Atlantic region. During site visits with USGA agronomists, I made my intentions clear; I want to work for the USGA Green Section someday. I was contacted by Dr. Kimberly Erusha, managing director of the USGA Green Section last February gauging my interest in applying for the position. I literally rushed home from work to get my information and accompanying documents to her as soon as possible. I could not have been more excited!

I started with the USGA on May 27th 2013. So far, it has been everything I expected, and more. Visiting 80-100 golf facilities, athletic fields, universities and speaking at conferences provides an interesting perspective on turf management. Having the opportunity to see multiple courses across a varied region maintain turf provides the USGA agronomists an insightful

advantage to each facility we visit.

I was concerned moving from Chicago, which is all cool season turf to the transition zone. Other than academic knowledge of warm season turf, I have no experience maintaining it. Actually, I felt during the application process I would not make the cut primarily due to lack of experience maintaining warm season turf. Much to my surprise, I was not asked about my warm season experience during the interview process. The major focus was: can I handle the travel requirements and work load? Following each visit, we provide a detailed report outlining the topics of discussion. Dictating, editing and including pictures in a report with a 10 day turnaround time to the facility is expected.

TAS visits are what we are primarily known for. Superintendents and golfers rely on our experiences to help their golf facility. My region includes Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia, Maryland and Delaware; there are few problems that occur during a season that we do not see. Additionally, we ask superintendents to call and send pictures of issues they experience on their course. This helps us know what is happening in our region; information we can pass along when the situation occurs at another facility.



Elliott making a course visit this past summer with Superintendent Corey Haney and Assistant Trevor Garabow at Washington Golf and Country Club.

In early July, the weather was very difficult for many across the Mid-Atlantic region. I was called on several "emergency" visits to courses that experienced turf loss and needed help. I knew how the superintendent felt standing there in front of a committee who wanted answers. Staying calm while I explained to the group (who were upset and not really interested in the answer) is difficult.

I continually find it amazing that I visit one course where the topic of conversation is eradication of bermudagrass, than drive a few miles away where Bermuda is being maintained. Philadelphia is no longer the northern edge of bermudagrass. Chances are, when visiting courses from central Pennsylvania through Virginia and Maryland, burmudagrass will be a topic of conversation in some regard.

Additionally, different weed, insect and disease challenges occur in the Mid-Atlantic region that do not in the Midwest. For instance, annual bluegrass weevil (ABW) is a major concern throughout the region. Unfortunately, ABW now feeds on bentgrass. Large scale damage can occur if the insect is left untreated. To date, ABW is not a problem in Chicago. Until I started with the USGA, I never dealt with ABW. This insect in particular required a lot of learning on my part. From June through October, this insect was discussed on many visits.

As I reflect back on the season, and my decision to join the USGA, I am filled with joy. What a great organization to work for! We are the face of golf in the United States. Having the opportunity to visit so many golf facilities and provide support makes me smile every time. My day is always enhanced when a course calls to tell me of the improvements/changes they are making as a result of my visit. I am fortunate to be in a region that holds golf in the highest regard. It is truly a way of life in the Mid-Atlantic region. Because of this, my region has one or two championships a year. It is a pleasure to realize my career goal of working for the organization that so many of us associate with championship golf. @

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#BullSheet



MARCH 2014

Dates to Remember

March 6 – MAGCS meeting at Midwest Golf House in Lemont, IL, Dr. Ed Nangle and Chris Painter hosts.

March 11 – Conserv FS Tech Day at Pheasant Run Resort in St. Charles, IL, Dan Murray, CGCS host.

March 12 – 30th Annual Chicagoland Forum at Naperville Country Club, Tim Anderson, CGCS, MG and Steven Biehl hosts.

March 30 – Deadline for nominations for GCM's Most Valuable Technician awards program presented in partnership with Foley United.

April 9 – CAGCS meeting at Lake Shore Country Club, Jeff Frentz, CGCS host.

April 27 – 2014 National Club Conference at the Fairmont Hotel in San Francisco, CA.

April 29 – MAGCS monthly meeting and Spring Scramble at Silver Lake Country Club, David Kohley host.

May 5 - ITF/MAGCS Combined Event -Country Club of Peoria, Andy Morris Host.

Did you lose a RIGHT-HANDED KING COBRA OVERSIZED 8 IRON at the MAGCS golf event at Chicago Highlands last October? If so, you are in luck! Brian Winkel, upon a recent inspection of his golf bag (which should contain strictly LEFT_HANDED clubs) made the discovery and would like to get the club back to its rightful owner. Contact Wink at brian.winkel@syngenta.com to claim your prize.

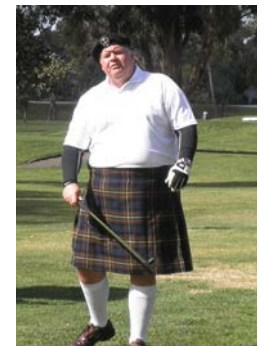
There's more movement to report on the job front: Virgil Range, former superintendent at Maryville Country Club in Maryville, MO has accepted the GM/Superintendent position at Sugar Creek Golf Club in High Ridge, MO. Brian Stout, former assistant at Edgewood Valley



Virgil Range



Brian Stout



and Mike MacMumper

Country Club in LaGrange, IL has been named its new superintendent; and Mike Mumper is the new superintendent at Villa Olivia in Bartlett, IL. Furthermore, Jeremy Duncan, former assistant at Cantigny Golf is the new superintendent at Fox Run Golf Links; and Michael Paciga, former assistant at Biltmore Country Club takes the reins as superintendent of Kemper Lakes Golf Club. Congratulations and best of luck to these MAGCS members!

Our sincere condolences to John Leibold and family on the passing of John's father last month. John H. Leibold passed away on February 8th at the age of 76. Please keep the Leibold family in your thoughts and prayers during this difficult time.

The Senior PGA Championship is returning to Harbor Shores in Benton Harbor, MI on May 19-25, and volunteers are needed to work the tournament. Superintendent Brad Fry is requesting that anyone interested in helping out during this major tournament contact him as soon as possible at bfry@kempersports.com or call him at 269-369-8982.

Always wanted to be a weather spotter but never knew how? Well, here's your chance—NIU Weather, in cooperation with the Northern Illinois University chapter of the American Meteorological Society, will host its annual severe weather spotter training session on Tuesday, March

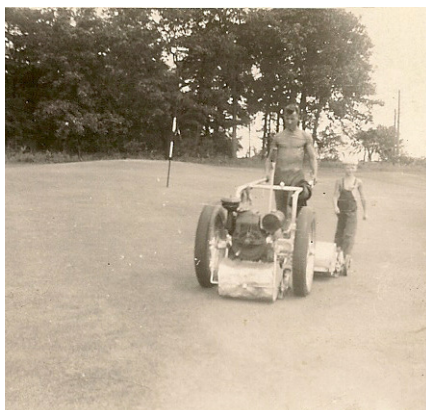
18th at 7:30 PM in Cole Hall on the NIU campus in DeKalb. The program will last roughly two hours and all are welcome. If you want to grow in your knowledge of thunderstorms and severe weather, and serve your community and those downstream from you by accurately reporting weather information to the National Weather Service, this session is for you. There's no cost, no registration, just bring as many people who are interested and go. Sounds like a hoot.

Congratulations to Reinders, Inc. on being named Foley-United's 2013 Distributor of the Year at the Golf Industry Show last month. Jim Letourneau, Foley-United president presented the award to Craig Reinders, Reinders president and his commercial equipment team.



L to R: John Jensen (Reinders), Ron Blodgett (Foley-United), Mark Robel (Reinders), Derek Kastenschmidt (Reinders), Jim Letourneau (Foley-United), Craig Reinders, Tim Snell (Reinders), Joe Etten (Reinders), Steve Stewart (Reinders), and Greg Turner (Foley-United)

March 15th marks the deadline for applications for Par Aide's Joseph S. Garske Collegiate Grant competition. The program offers educational aid to the children and stepchildren of GCSAA members. Applicants must be graduating high school seniors and accepted at institutions of higher learning for the upcoming year. Founded by Par Aide in honor of Joseph S. Garske and administered by the Environmental Institute for Golf, \$7,500 in scholarships will be awarded. To apply, go to www.eifg.org and click on the Education tab, then click on the Scholarships tab.



Name This MAGCS Member hint #1: This gentleman is one of MAGCS' longest-standing living members, and is pictured here on the grounds of the Fox Valley Golf Course in 1939 as a young tike (he's the little fellow next to the big tan guy operating the bad-a\$\$ walking mower).

If you're heading to Augusta this April for the Masters, there will be a new look to the 17th hole. The 65-foot high loblolly pine known as the Eisenhower Tree (or Ike's Tree) will not be there, having been removed after a storm damaged it beyond

hope last month. The tree stood about 210 yards from the tee on the left side of the par-4 17th, and was believed to be 100 to 125 years old. President Dwight D. "Ike" Eisenhower, an avid golfer and member of Augusta National, hit his tee shots into the tree on a regular basis, prompting him to propose cutting it down at a meeting in 1956, only to be ruled out of order by Masters co-founder Clifford Roberts who then adjourned the meeting. Cool bit of history there, and if the tree spade exists that can plop a 65-foot tree in the same spot, you can bet Augusta National will find it and have it done.

Congratulations to Jim Hall of Inwood Golf Course on his retirement last month—enjoy your salad days, sir!

Get your nominations in for your favorite equipment technician—GCM magazine's Most Valuable Technician awards program presented in partnership with Foley-United is accepting nominations until the end of this month. Go to www.gcsaa.org to nominate your guy.

Name This MAGCS Member hint #2: His superintendent father and he once saved the life of a boy who had fallen through the ice on a pond at Aurora Country Club where he worked as his dad's assistant in the mid-fifties. (He's 2nd from left).



Congratulations to Scot Spier, CGCS and Roger Stewart, CGCS on their successful recertification through GCSAA.

We hear it all the time—our twin is out there somewhere. In Mike Bavier's case, that twin was halfway around the world. In Spain. Driving a bus. That Bruce Williams happened to be riding in while he was there speaking to the Federation of European Golf Greenkeepers Association in Catalunya. Or did Mike actually move to Spain and hook onto a sweet bus-driving gig? He DOES like to travel...

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Congrats to Dave Kohley (Silver Lake Country Club) and Tim Scott, CGCS (Stony Creek Golf Course) on their fine showing at the GCSAA Golf Championship last month in Orlando. Dave finished in tenth place with a 150, and Tim's 151 earned him thirteenth place. Nice work guys!

Q: If Dave Groelle, CGCS had spent his entire life at his current club, what would he be?

A: Royal Melbourne and raised.

Congratulations to Jeff Rehberg (right) of J.W. Turf on being recognized for Outstanding Sales Achievement by John Deere Golf at the Golf Industry Show last month in Orlando.



This walk down memory lane came to us via Pete Cookingham of the Turfgrass Information Center at the Michigan State University Libraries. They are proud to announce the launch of the website for the Noer/Milorganite Image Collection which has a bounty of old scanned images of golf courses in our area depicting the people, tools, and practices of our predecessors. Your course may be in there, so take a moment to have a gander—it can be found at <http://noermmsd.lib.msu.edu/>.

The IRS has finalized its Employer Mandate Requirements regarding the new health care laws, adding a new delay in which clubs with 50-99 full-time employees do not have to comply with the law until 2016. To qualify for this extra delay, a club must show: 1) That it employed less than 100 full-timers in 2014; 2) That from 2/9/14 to 12/31/14 it does not reduce the size of its workforce or cut hours of its employees to meet the 50-99 full-time threshold (bonafide reasons for changes are ok); 3) That it did not eliminate or materially reduce the insurance it offered as of 2/9/14; and 4) That it did not change its health plan's start after 2/9/14. This additional delay is meant to "ease the transition to covering employees working 30 hours or more per week." So you got that going for you.

For those of you who may have missed it, there was a retirement party for a pretty special guy on January 17th. Randy Wahler, the superintendent at Knollwood Club for the past 33 years—yes, 33 years!—was honored by friends and family on this evening, and for very good reason. I've known Randy since I was a snot-nosed assistant at Old Elm Club under Randy's great friend Ed Fischer. These guys, along with Tim Davis at Shoreacres among others, formed the group of gentlemen I would aspire to emulate as a golf course superintendent. Consummate professionals to a man, they went about the business of golf course management the way it should be done—with a dedication to excellence and a desire to share their experience with the next generation. Randy was the paragon of our profession, the mold from which all superintendents should have come—a great grass grower and agronomist, a communicator without equal, a teacher and motivator of future industry stalwarts, and a damn fine golfer

to boot. He truly was and is someone to know and learn from.



Congratulations Randy—may you take from retirement what you've given to our profession!

Name This MAGCS Member hint #3: He was a long-time superintendent of Butterfield Country Club, and in his retirement you might run into him at the Sandwich Fair in the summertime, or in Harner's Bakery in Aurora with his wife Phyllis in the winter, where Eddie Braunsky took this photo.



Give up? It's Art "Artie" Benson, Jr. of course! Artie was born in the business and remained in it throughout his career in the west suburbs, and if you ever run across him, you're in for a treat—he can spin a yarn like nobody else!

Do you want to get involved with GCSAA Education? The proposal deadline for presenting at the 2015 Education Conference in San Antonio, Texas is March 31st. If you have something to say that you feel others may benefit from hearing, go to www.gcsaa.org and click on the Teach for GCSAA thingie. @

The Middle of Nowhere

Streamsong

Chuck Barber, St. Charles Country Club

PHOTOS: CHUCK BARBER

If there is a 'nowhere' in Florida, Streamsong Resort is directly in the middle of it. I was invited to attend the PGA Merchandise Show in Orlando, Florida by our head pro to play some golf with a few of our members.



This view is from the putting green looking down the 1st fairway of the Red, Coore-Crenshaw designed course. The mounding is very severe, as is the bunkering throughout the property.

I was interested in attending mostly because, as I understand it, it rarely snows there and the temperatures most likely, would be above freezing. I became more interested when one of the courses on the schedule was Streamsong Resort. I had read a little about the course's construction, design and opening through some of our trade magazines. I don't think I'm going to Bandon Dunes any time soon so I figured this was about as close as I could get. Since my wife, Tina, is an extremely understanding person she thought it would be a good idea for me to accept the invitation. It's good work if you can get it.

The course is owned by Mosaic, the world's largest producer of phosphate and potash for crop nutrition. The site

for the golf course is one of the old mine tracts that was no longer used. The mounding comes from the overburden, or material sitting on top of the phosphate rock, that is removed during excavation. It is triple washed and sent by conveyor back to the mining site. This sand, incredibly clean all over the course, was the growing medium for the greens, tees and fairways as well as the source for bunker sand.

The Streamsong philosophy for their courses is that they are designed to be walked. Much of Florida is flat but the mounded nature of the sand makes the elevation changes at Streamsong fairly dramatic by local standards. It is not a difficult walk but there are some hills to navigate, for sure.



The overburden from the mining process created the severe mounding on the course. Very little of the mounding that was left from the mining was actually moved when the courses were laid out and constructed.

The caddies on site were from Bandon Dunes and extremely helpful. Very little earth was moved during construction as the design intent was to use as much of the existing topography as possible.

There are three mowing heights at Streamsong: one for greens, one for collars/surrounds and one for fairways and tees. There is no rough to speak of except for the reed grasses growing outside the fairways. The fairways are very generous but if you do miss one you'll either be in dunes sand or these tall grasses which makes advancing the ball difficult.

One of the most fun components of the whole experience was navigating the greens. They were planted to Mini-Verde Bermuda. They were mostly dormant when I played but according to the assistant superintendent, Kyle Harris, they had been mown that day to 'clean them up'. They must have been mown pretty low because the ball flew across the surface. The greens are severely mounded and sloped. I found out as well as some in my group, it was difficult to get our putts to stop at reasonable distance from the hole, especially when starting above it. It was great to have the caddies tell us where we needed to attack each hole location from the fairway, however the execution on our part, was lacking. We were rarely successful. The caddies: Good. The golfers: Bad.

The bunker sand was sourced on site and if you weren't in dunes sand you were in bunker sand. The bunkers are very severe and penal. Thankfully the author did not spend too much time at the beach, so to speak, on this first visit.

All in all it was a great day of golf. It was windy and cool, roughly 50 degrees when we finished. Had the sun not been out it would have been uncomfortable. I remember the temperature back home that day was only 15 degrees, so no complaints on the Florida weather. The staff, the caddies and all involved made our visit memorable and I hope to go back soon. It is approximately an hour and a half from Orlando and one hour from Tampa Bay. It is much easier to get to than the Bandon Dunes courses and, from what I understand, a very similar golf experience. Minus the Pacific Ocean, I guess. @



This picture is of the 7th hole on the Blue, Tom Doak designed course.



Generous fairways are the name of the game at Streamsong, with very little rough as we know it in the Midwest.



Caddies are great to tell you how to attach the hole location from the fairway. Maybe someday I'll have enough game to follow their instructions.

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Director's Column continued from page 3

We've purposefully adjusted the Midwest event schedule, trying to stay clear of September with a holiday and aerification. If you still want to get out and play, I urge you to head up to Sheboygan and play in the Wee One event at Pine Hills. If you've never done it, take the opportunity, it is a treat and supports a great cause. More and more support keeps coming in for the Wee One. In fact, I just noticed on Twitter that two new events are being held this year in Ohio and Missouri- Kansas. This is great!

Fall golf will be coming to the North Shore this season as the October event will be held at Briarwood Country Club. October used to be home to the College Championship but last year we changed the format to a two-man team in a Ryder Cup format (6 holes stroke play, 6 holes best ball and 6 holes scramble) and all enjoyed it. We'll keep the format this year; it is never too early to start picking your partner. I look forward to hosting everyone here at BCC and enjoying fall golf.

We'll wrap up our 2014 season as we do each year, moving inside, on November 12 at Medinah Country Club for the Midwest Turf Clinic. We have another full year ahead on the Midwest calendar. Let's hope that Mother Nature is kind to us with a temperate summer after the winter we've been dealt. I thank all the hosts for opening their doors for us in 2014. As Golf and Arrangements Chairman, I can share with you that it hasn't been the easiest to find host clubs and superintendents. We have a few commitments for 2015, but for the most part, our future calendar remains open. I ask that you consider hosting an event for your fellow members. I look forward to seeing you at an event throughout the season. @

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Charles Anfield, CGCS, Heritage Bluffs Golf Course

Employment Pointers

Mr. Tim Eavenson

As an interim to Dr. Nikolai's talks Mr. Timothy R. Eavenson, Esq. of Eavenson Employment Law made his presentation "Employment Points for Golf Course Supervisors." Tim discussed tactics and techniques for contracts and negotiations in the realm of his specialty, employment.

He stated, "When entering into any negotiation prepare a priority list. One should have at least your top three challenges clear in your mind." The most common negotiation talking points are:

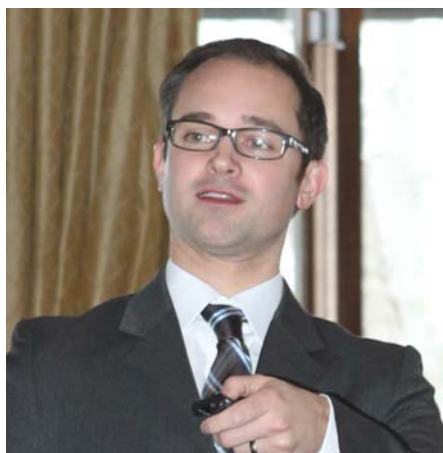
1. Salary or Money
2. Benefits
3. Vacation/time off

Tim explained your contract governs everything. It is best to "think long term and let them know you are." In an employment contract, the employer agrees to provide the employee with a specific set of benefits, such as salary, health insurance, a retirement plan, and any other benefit that both parties have agreed is necessary. At the same time, the contract will contain clauses that determine the range of services that the employee will provide in exchange for these benefits. The idea is to include as much detail as possible, so that there is very little room for misinterpretation of what is expected of each party.

Tim pointed out some commonly overlooked negotiation points are: defined job responsibilities, who evaluates you and how it's done, the use of outside consultation and reassignment protection.

Essentials of Contracts

- Duration and extension of employment is of primary concern
- Compensation- think total package, bonus structure should be measurable
- Duties and expectations – this should be accomplished with a written job description (very important)
- Results of termination



Mr. Tim Eavenson address those in attendance on the topic of employment law.

Industry issues such as disability and termination with no severance is worth negotiating when starting a new position. An employment contract is a legally binding agreement between an employer and employee that sets forth the terms of the employment relationship. Employment contracts will generally be enforced as long as the terms are not egregious and the employee is not required to contract away his rights under worker-protection legislation. Such contracts generally dictate certain aspects of the behavior of both employees and employers.

Once you are "on the job" it is important to know:

- Know your documents (how to file complaints, etc.)
- Employment contract (where is it, who keeps copies, etc.)
- Job description (always important to know what you are hired to do)
- Benefit plan documents (what else do you get?)
- HR policies (policies can be considered agreements and both parties need to uphold)

Common pitfalls for executives and those in management positions include: hiring, employee discipline jokes, bullying, and harassment. Termination disputes are also hot buttons. In the United States, including Illinois, most employment is at-will. This means that an employer can fire any employee he wants for any reason, except those reasons prohibited by anti-discrimination legislation, (Discrimination must be related to your status as a protected class. Examples include: age, sex/sexual orientation, religion, national origin, status as veteran or disability.) such as Title VII or the Americans with Disabilities Act. An employee can also quit at any time, for any reason. Therefore, no employment contract is required in the US. @

Tim can be reached for further information at tre@eavensonlaw.com



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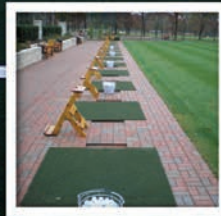
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Thank You 2014 Golden Tee Club

Jake Vollbeer, Burris Equipment Company

As we reflect back on our winter and our experience in Orlando at the 2014 Golf Industry Show, I am reminded once again at the power of relationships within our industry.

The dynamic between the superintendent, supplier, manufacturer, and vendor happens daily as the superintendent identifies needs and the commercial side attempts to provide efficient solutions for the specific requirement. This occurs while Universities train students and conduct studies to provide scientific justification of the identified needs, cultural practices, and products. The GIS is a good example of how all facets of our industry collaborate for the enrichment of golf. It is through these relationships that our industry grows and provides for the golfing community. The amount of knowledge gained through our common experiences at the GIS is special, a once in a year opportunity for collaboration with industry peers from around the world.

But the truth of the matter is that we do not have to hop on a plane and travel hundreds of miles to experience the power of collaboration amongst our local industry peers. We simply need only to attend monthly meetings. Make it a point this year, to at least make it to a few MAGCS meetings. In addition, provide the opportunity for some of your staff to attend as well. It is through continued attendance and interaction at monthly and national meetings where we as commercial vendors and manufacturers find our ultimate return on our investment in associations. Local events are successful when parties can come together and continue the dynamic experienced at the GIS. The Midwest is fortunate to host well-organized and efficient meetings at a variety of locations throughout the territory. It is up to us as members, both on the commercial and superintendent side to attend and ensure the fair exchange of ideas, needs and information. As we settle into spring and the challenges and grind of summer, remember the relationships forged through all of our common efforts can be our greatest resource for success.

I would like to take this opportunity to recognize MAGCS wonderful vendor supporters from the Hospitality Reception, found on the opposite page. – Thank you. 

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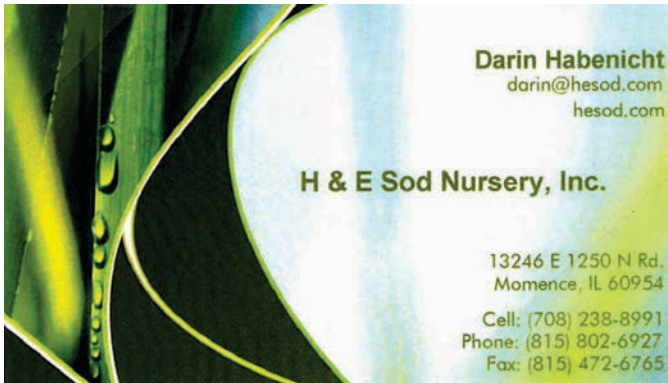
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