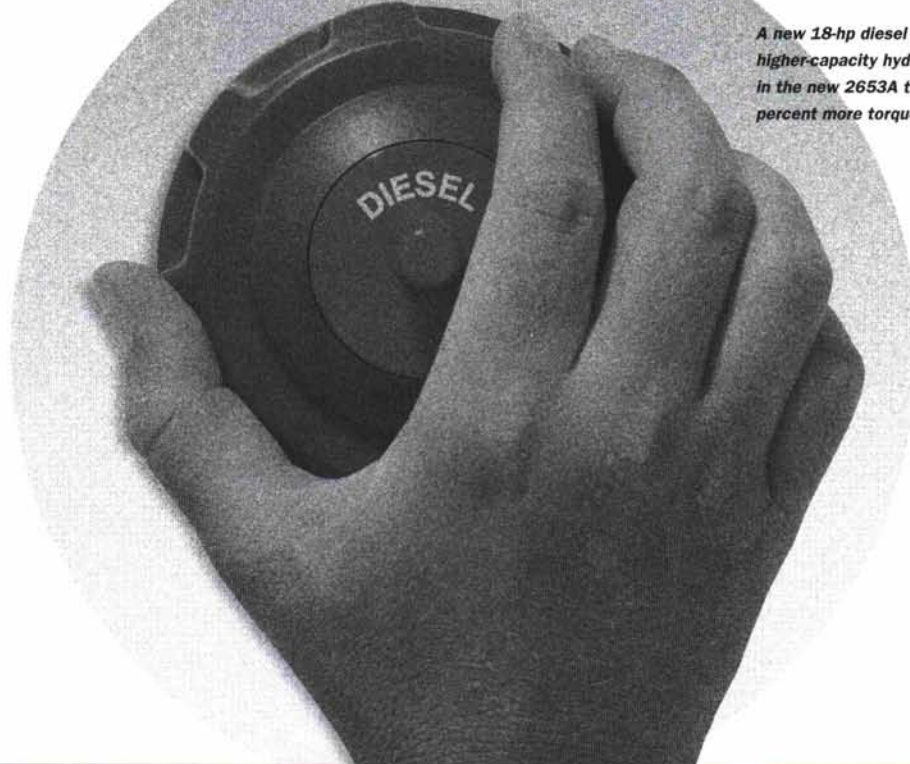


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The Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents is a professional organization founded in 1927 whose goals include preservation and dissemination of scientific and practical knowledge pertaining to golf turf maintenance.

We endeavor to increase efficiency and economic performance while improving and enhancing the individual and collective prestige of the members.

The MAGCS (Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents) member is also an environmental steward. We strive to uphold and enhance our surroundings by promoting flora and fauna in every facet in a manner that is beneficial to the general public now and in the future.

EDITOR: Fred D. Opperman

810 Greenwood Avenue  
Carpentersville, IL 60110  
Phone & Fax 847-428-5009 or email: magcsoc@aol.com

On Course is published monthly. All articles, double spaced, are required by the first of the month to make the next issue. Advertising is sold by the column inch, quarter page, half page and full page.

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Don Cross  
President, MAGCS

**A**s I prepare this column, April has come to a close, though I'm not so sure winter has. Without question, the cold temperatures we have experienced this month have not been conducive to our efforts to repair winter's scathing. A little warmth and sunshine would surely do wonders for all that new seed we've planted. I hope that by the time this *On Course* is published, your courses will have fully recovered and that through this difficult time, your members or customers demonstrated patience, understanding, and support.

Our first golf event meeting for this year was at Klein Creek and, unfortunately, was one of those that every MAGCS president dreads. It was cold, windy, and rainy (aside from that, it was perfect); and the decision had to be made whether to cancel the golf event or play. Now as I viewed it, I was in a no-win situation. If we canceled, it was likely that a number of members would be upset, because they were there and ready to play. They might leave and not come back five hours later to attend the meeting and dinner. If we did play, it was likely that many other members would be upset (especially those

not in attendance, assuming we would cancel) and might elect not to play or only play a few holes, making it nearly impossible to determine the prize winners. You see, a no-win situation. Well, with 95 members present of the 120 or so who had pre-registered, after the host superintendent gave his approval of the course's playability, and after consultation with several other members of the Board of Directors, I made the decision to play. Given the circumstances, I think it was the right decision.

As the day turned out, several foursomes completed 18 holes, and many others completed varying numbers of holes. A unique scoring method was devised, as prizes were given to those who braved the elements for the longest number of holes. At the end of the day, over 70 members were present for the education, meeting (a quick one, which everyone likes), and dinner, all in a comfortable, relaxed facility.

We would have all preferred a different scenario for the day; but what we must remember (and the point of all this) is that before our meeting is conducted, many advance preparations are

made and costs incurred. Host clubs have committed their facilities and staff, they have ordered food and beverages which may have required some pre-preparation, perhaps extra carts have been secured, and many other behind-the-scene items have been addressed. We, therefore, must carry through with our obligation unless the facility informs us that they cannot carry through with theirs.

I hope this is the last near rain out event I will have to contend with, as my decision may have been unpopular to many members. Perhaps though, the above information brings to light the issues that are involved and that must be contemplated in making these types of decisions. I do hope so.

Looking forward to seeing you on a bright and sunny day at The Odyssey Club on June 11.

Donald A. Cross, CGCS  
President, MAGCS

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# The Japanese Beetle



The Japanese beetle and larvae, commonly known as a grub, display some of the damage it can cause.

*Fredric D. Miller, Ph.D.  
University of Illinois at Urbana-  
Champaign*

Since its first arrival into the United States in 1916 near Riverton, New Jersey, the Japanese beetle has spread throughout the eastern United States and is now commonly found as far west as Iowa, Wisconsin, Missouri, Illinois, and Indiana. The beetle has even been found in northern and southern California.

The spread of the beetle has been dramatic in spite of quarantines established as early as 1920. In 1916, approximately one-half of a square mile comprised the

known area of infestation. Ten years later, the infested area had grown to 3,850 square miles; and by 1952, Japanese beetles were estimated to have infested over 76,000 square miles of the United States. Attempts at eradicating the beetles from areas east of the Mississippi have been unsuccessful. Eradication efforts in California have met with some success probably due to the help of unfavorable arid climate.

## Feeding Habits

The Japanese beetle, native to Japan, causes extensive damage to nearly 300 different species of plants. About 47 species are highly preferred and are extensively damaged, including woody plants

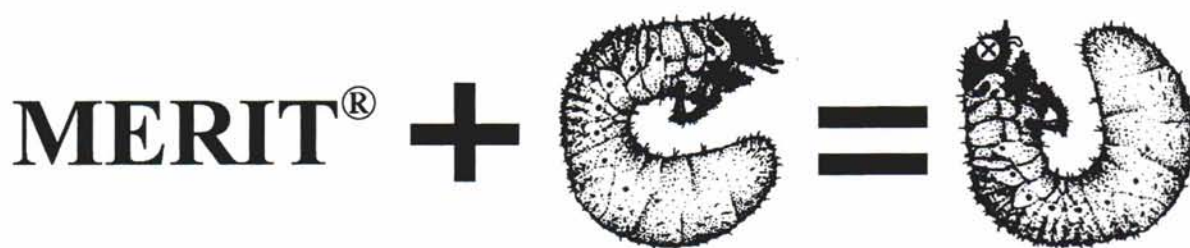
such as maples, birch, roses, crabapples, willows, lindens, elms, and grapes. Plants of the *Rosaceae* (rose) family are highly susceptible to feeding by the beetle. More than 75 other plant families have some degree of feeding preference.

Due to its wide host range, the beetle is a major pest of golf courses, parks, home landscapes, corporate parks, nurseries, and forest preserves.

## Pest Identification and Plant Damage

The adult beetle is a brilliant metallic green with coppery brown wing covers that do not

*(continued on page 16)*



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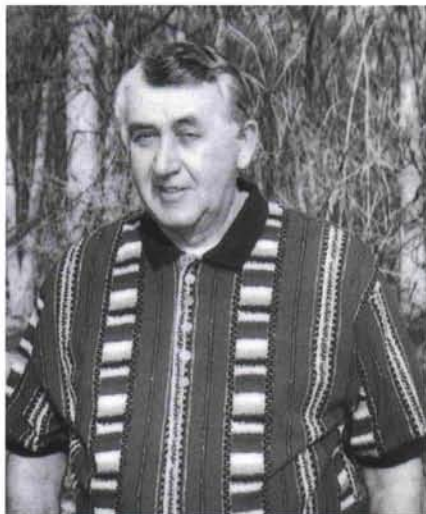
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# Ray Schei -N- Odyssey Golf Club



*Ray Schmitz*

It gives me great pleasure to introduce Ray Schei who will be the host superintendent for the June meeting of the MAGCS at the Odyssey Golf Club.

Ray has been married to Betty for 40 years and has two grown children and two wonderful grandchildren. Ray has lived in Downers Grove for the past 20 years. He enjoys traveling with his wife and, while at home, spoiling his grandchildren.

Ray's first job was at Midwest Golf Club where he worked as assistant to Marv Gruening. He then moved to Acacia Golf Club as golf course superintendent where he remained until the property was sold to be subdivided for home-sites. As the years evolved, Ray served as superintendent at Plum Tree National, Ruth Lake, and White Eagle before accepting the challenge as superintendent at Odyssey in 1990. Ray is a 30-year member of both the MAGCS and GCSAA.



*Island green, #16 hole, Odyssey Club.*

Odyssey Golf Club opened for play August of 1991. The golf course architect was Harry Bauers, and the design consultant was Curtis Strange. The course started as a links-style layout; but since opening day, Ray has plant-

*(continued on page 31)*

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# Golf Course Architecture

John MacLeod

Over one hundred years ago, it was not unusual for the keeper of the green to be far more than that. I speak specifically about Old Tom Morris of St. Andrews, Scotland. Not only was he the greenkeeper, club professional, teacher and player, caddy, golf ball and club maker, but a highly sought after golf course architect and designer. About fifty of his courses remain to this day. Tom Morris, however, is most recognized as the one who for almost forty years developed the Old Course at St. Andrews into a classic links course. It should be noted that during his tenure at St. Andrews, many persons sought out Tom Morris as teacher and advisor. Early architects like Willie Park, John Low, Harry Colt and Donald Ross all knew or worked for him. Later in America, other golf architects like

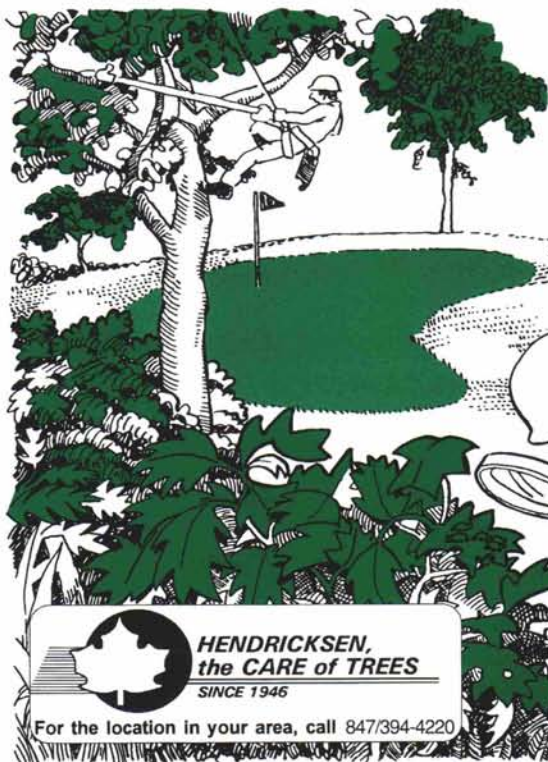
*Good golf courses complement nature rather than detract from it. This is an old philosophy, but one that is fast becoming the current philosophy of today.*

A. W. Tillinghast, Alister Mackenzie, Charles B. MacDonald, and Donald Ross used St. Andrews as a model or were greatly influenced by courses designed by Tom Morris.

What then is behind the design decisions that influence today's architect? What are the specific issues used in modern golf course design? How do the above affect the golf course superintendent regarding maintenance, especially greens? I asked the above questions of Dr. Michael Hurdzan, past president of the American Society of Golf Course Architects.

Right from the beginning, the answer to the first question was in so many words, what does the owner want? You must first satisfy the person who will be paying for the golf course. So what

*(continued on page 26)*



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