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## Putting It All in Perspective

(continued from page 12)

and encouragement carry more weight than constantly yelling and carrying on.

**Dennis Wilson** at Sunset Ridge Country Club told me it was easy to be in a good mood. When he looks at where he came from and where he is today, it is hard not to smile. He is very grateful for the opportunities this profession has given him. He recalls attending meetings with his uncle Domenic Grotti and being in awe of some of the legendary superintendents from our area. However, he reminded me that there are no "gods," that we are all human beings and that being down to earth, friendly and helpful to one another is very important. He also added that it doesn't

hurt to remember that Mother Nature can kick our butt whenever she likes.

Finally, I spoke with **Peter Leuzinger** from the Ivanhoe Club. He stressed how important attitude is and that it boils down to being 10 percent of what happened and 90 percent of how you reacted. (Not something he thought of, but a formula someone much more famous than himself came up with.) Over the years, a smile and a positive attitude have produced happy endings to many crazy situations for Pete. He also maintained that it is much better to be a "giver than a taker" and that it is fun to do just that. Helping others can do a great deal for your self esteem. Additionally, he stressed how important it is to want to get along with others. We

need allies, and not working at building a positive relationship with our golf professional and general manager can only hurt the superintendent.

In closing, I hope these healthy perspectives offer everyone something to think about in the months ahead. Are we doing everything we can to be patient with that guy on the crew who is slow to catch on? We can effectively do our jobs without yelling at the next guest who drives too close to the green. If all else fails, just smile the next time Mrs. Evans comes looking for you because she had an upset stomach Thursday, and it's probably from whatever you sprayed on Monday. ■

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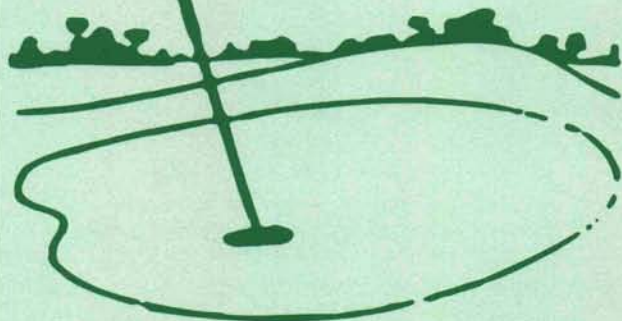
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# How to Get on the Internet

Nick Hongisto  
Schaumburg G.C.

I have found that there is an ever-increasing amount of information available to us on the Internet. We can find the specifications about the latest mowing equipment. We can read the latest university results on fungicide test and turf trials. I have even downloaded the latest irrigation head information for use in my Network 8000 central. Associations have put out great web pages to learn more about them or, in the case of the GCSAA, get useful information from our association. I know I have not even scratched the surface on what is available to us on the "net." I do feel that we should all attempt to use this new tool so the technology won't pass us up.

First, you need a computer. I use a 486 at work and a Pentium at home. I would not use anything less than a 486. You almost have to use Windows 3.0 or Windows 95. You can use a Macintosh, but I have no idea how they work. You should have at least 6 to 8 MB of RAM. The hard drive can be whatever size you want, but it should have plenty of room to store or "cache" the information you receive from the Internet. I recommend a minimum of 45 MB of hard drive. The most important item is the modem. I would not even attempt to get on the Internet with any modem less than 14.4 baud. I have noticed that modems with speeds of 28.8 and 33.6 are available at reasonable costs.

Just a note on saving money with modems. If you can turn a screwdriver and read instructions, then buy an inter-



## GCSAA Online

**W**ith the click of your mouse or a few keystrokes, the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America's (GCSAA) Web site provides a "hole in one" when it comes to quick access to tools and information about the golf course superintendent's profession in one worldwide location.

GCSAA Online features a public-access area focusing on environmental issues and the role superintendents play in preserving the beauty of golf, plus an exclusive members-only section with access to GCSAA services, operational information and links to other industry sites.

*New information is added weekly, so bookmark this page to stay updated on GCSAA and the golf course industry.*

**GCSAA's Home Page: <http://www.gcsaa.org/gcsaa>**

*For additional information, contact GCSAA at:*  
**913/832-4493; 800/472-7878; [dbishop@gcsaa.org](mailto:dbishop@gcsaa.org)**

nal modem vs. an external. With an internal modem you will get just the PC board and the install disk. The board just snaps into an open expansion slot in the back of your PC. If you are running Windows 95 and purchase a modem that has Plug 'N Play capabilities, then the installation is almost foolproof. If you are nervous about opening the case to your computer, then an external modem is for you; but you will pay, in some cases, almost double than an internal.

Now you need the Internet provider. There are many providers around. I use the IBM Internet connection. They are competitive with their pricing, and I almost never have a busy signal. The provider is where your modem dials up to and connects with another modem and then connects to the Internet. This is where you have to pay to get on.

*(continued on page 26)*

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*I would not  
even attempt to  
get on the  
Internet with  
any modem  
less than  
14.4 baud.*

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Most places charge a flat fee of \$19 for unlimited access. This means you can be on for an hour a month or 100 hours a month but pay the same rate. If you are on for only four hours a month, then use a cheaper rate. IBM has a rate of, I think, \$7.50 for four hours with an hourly charge after that.

Remember that the call to your provider is a local call and is charged as such. It is not a long-distance call, unless you are calling a long-distance modem connection; in which case, I would ask your provider for a local number. When I am at the course in Schaumburg, I call a number in Arlington Heights; and when I am at home in St. Charles, I call in a number in Geneva—both local calls. I can give anyone free software to the IBM network that can connect you to the Internet if you just let me know. This software has the provider, modem dialer and Netscape 2.5 all for free. You pay for signing up to the provider the first time you log on.

There is a difference in using America Online vs. going directly to the Internet. America Online has access to the Internet and e-mail, but it also has many other features you might want to try. The difference between AOL and a direct connection to the Internet is that AOL has areas to visit that are only found on AOL. That in itself is not a problem. In fact, some of the sites are very informative and interesting. The downside is it is very slow when you connect to the Internet using AOL as your provider. The upside is it is free for the first month, provided you can get on at all.

Next you need to get a web browser. This is the software that you use to surf the Internet. There are two browsers that are the most popular. One is Netscape, and the other is Microsoft's Internet Explorer. I have used both, but I prefer Netscape. The browser is where you type in the URL of the site you wish to visit. The URL is the [www.xyz.com](http://www.xyz.com), the address of the site. It also is where your Internet address is stored and where you can bookmark your favorite sites or store the e-mail address of friends and business sites. The browser is like any other piece of software. The more you use it, the more you get to know its features and what you like to use and what you can ignore.

Next month, I will explain e-mail and Internet search engines. ■

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*The browser is  
like any other  
piece of software.*

*The more you  
use it,  
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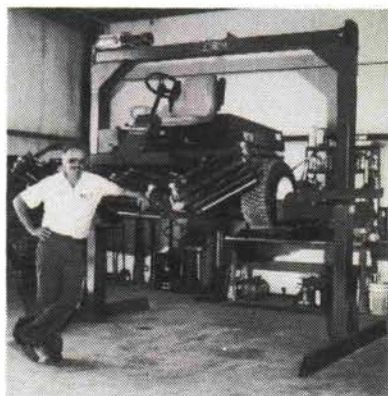
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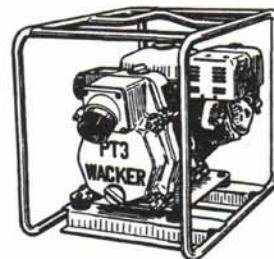
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### **I Feel Fortunate**

*(continued from page 18)*

4. For the impressive list of Environmental Steward Awards garnered by the members of the MAGCS. My thought is that this can only encourage others to elevate their standards and motivate them/us toward this level of excellence.

Maybe others feel as fortunate as I. It is easy to see why when we take the time to analyze our profession and all the good things it has to offer us and our communities. Our president, Ed Braunsky, had an interesting spin on our profession: "Golf course superintendents are one big fraternity." I personally feel we are bonded to the common goal of providing a golf facility that is pleasant to view and play, challenging, environmentally friendly and relaxing. ■

### **The Sunset Ridge Plan**

*(continued from page 20)*

What a great way to prove to the public that golf course superintendents are part and parcel of a CLASS profession. How about this for a great headline as 1997 draws to a close: Forty Chicago Area Clubs Have Now Joined the Sunset Ridge Plan!!!

We have some of the finest turf and turfgrass managers in the nation. Illinois needs to lead the nation in turfgrass support for its university programs. As Director of Development for the ITF, I am charged with building a bigger support base for our universities so they can support your industry. I am developing new approaches and ideas for achieving levels of support never before realized in Illinois. I would like to discuss these programs with you, get your ideas and encourage you to join in with me. Insuring the future strength of the Illinois turfgrass industry is the responsibility of all of us. ■

### **Fred Behnke -N- Mt. Prospect Golf Club**

*(continued from page 8)*

states, "I love this job, everyday! There is nothing greater than to be on the golf course at dawn and see the sun rise to begin a new day." I think we all agree.

Come on out on the 21st and see the manifestation of one man's love for his job. Remember to come and tread lightly, for steel spikes are no longer allowed at any MAGCS golf event. ■

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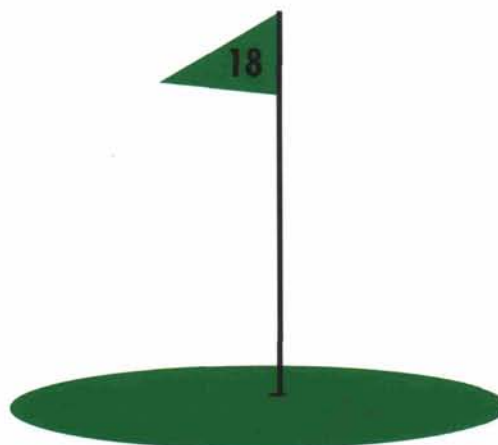
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# the Bull Sheet

## DATES TO REMEMBER

April 10 — CDGA Green Seminar at Butterfield C.C.

April 21 — MAGCS monthly meeting at Mount Prospect G.C.

May 19 — Joint association meeting at Cantigny G. C.

May 30 - June 1 — Ameritech Open at Kemper Lakes G.C.

June 2 — MAGCS monthly meeting at Rolling Green C.C.

June 23-29 — 1997 U.S. Senior Open at Olympia Fields C.C.

July 7 — MAGCS monthly meeting at Orchard Valley G.C.

August 14 — MAGCS monthly meeting at Bartlett Hills G.C.

August 24 — MAGCS Family Outing at Kane County Cougars Baseball

September 22 — ITF Northern Golf Day at Glen View Club and Evnaston G.C.

For those of you who didn't go to Las Vegas or who didn't make it to the Midwest Hospitality Suite, you really missed out. It will be hard in the future to top the quality and spaciousness that we had. Hot and cold food was served from 6:30 p.m. to closing. Tables were available to sit down and enjoy your food or to visit with friends. The commercial distributors all need to be thanked for their generosity in making the

two nights very enjoyable. Brian Bossert, chairman, did an outstanding job seeing that all went smoothly.

The President's Reception for Bruce Williams on Monday night, February 10, 1997, was very well done. The GCSAA made a 20-minute videotape with various people close to Bruce talking about their relationship over the years. Included were video clips of Bruce in the past and up to the present. Bruce had his family up on the stage with him and his parents, Roberta and Bob Williams, sitting in the front row. How proud the family must have felt, hearing all of the accolades of their husband, father and son. There must have been 300 to 400 people in the room with the reception afterwards.

By the time you read this, Bruce Williams will be in Los Angeles at his new job as superintendent at the Los Angeles C.C. We all wish him and his family well. Bruce was a leader both here in the Midwest and with the GCSAA over the past years. He, like his father before him, proudly represented the golf course superintendent to the golfing community

and in his own words, "raised the bar of excellence." Bruce can be reached at 310-276-6104.

In 1996, the MAGCS donated to the following funds:

GCSAA Robert Trent Jones Endowment Fund.....	\$5,000
Musser Foundation.....	\$1,000
CDGA Foundation .....	\$4,000
Illinois Turfgrass Foundation, Tee Sponsor.....	\$ 100
Evans Scholar Foundations.....	\$1,000
Illinois Turfgrass Foundation at NCTE .....	\$2,000
Secret Santa .....	\$1,000
University of Illinois .....	\$7,500

A couple of our members did okay in the GCSAA golf tournament in Las Vegas. Paul Voykin won Net in the Super Senior Division; and in the Four Ball, Steve Van Acker and Ken Goodman were winners.

While attending the GCSAA Conference in Las Vegas, Peter Leuzinger, Chuck Anfield, Stephanie Gotberg, Pam Brackenbury and Brian Bossert combined to complete the Las Vegas Marathon in just over 3.5 hours. Their team, "The Running Strolons," didn't set any records; but all agreed it was a great way to start the day.

(continued on page 32)



The Williams family

l to r: Blake, Claire, Bruce, David, Roxane, Roberta and Bob Williams.