

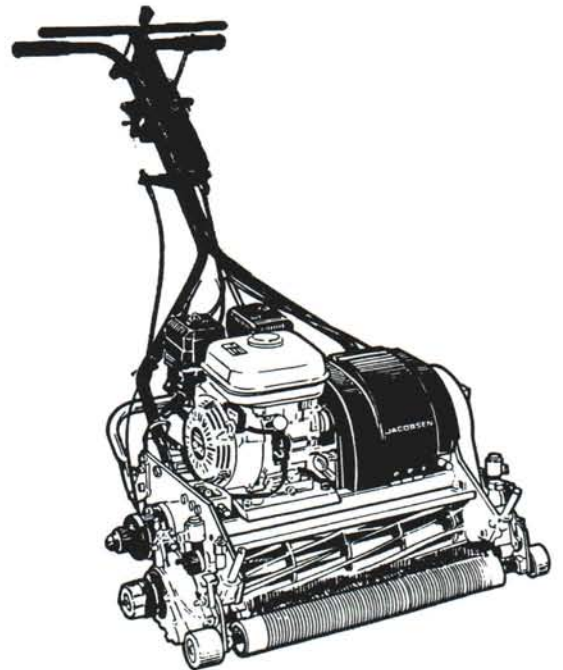
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FEATURES

2 On Course With the President

Ed Braunsky

4 Director's Column

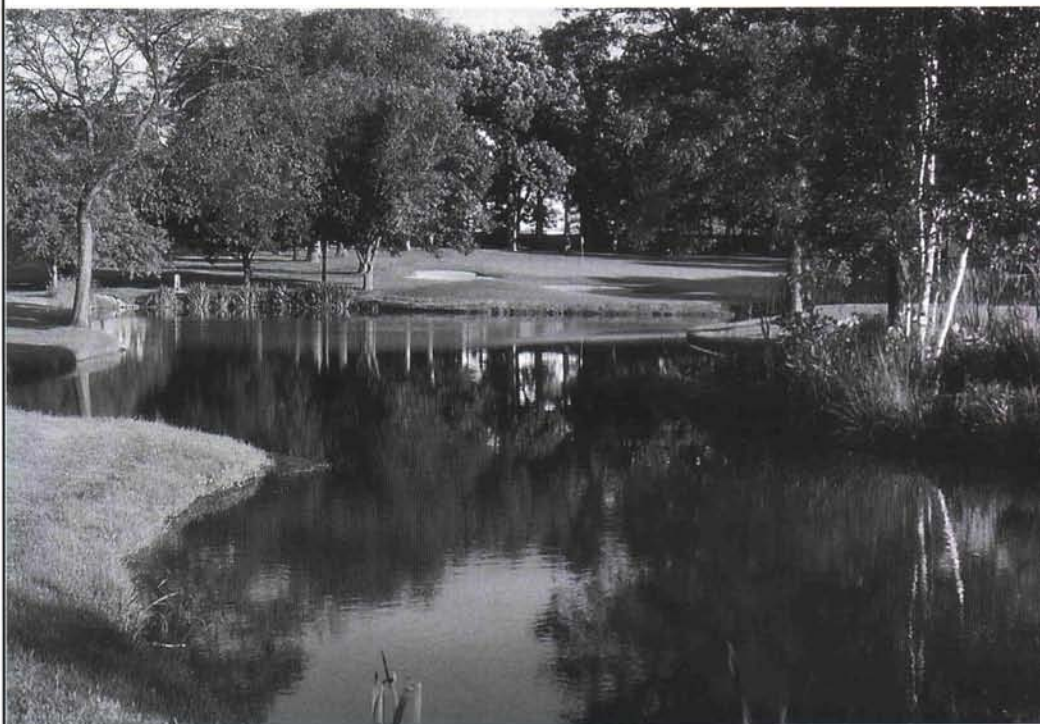
Brian Bossert

FEATURE ARTICLE

8 Chronology of Olympia Fields Country Club: A Work In Progress

Dave Ward

26 the Bull Sheet



Olympia Fields Country Club current 18th North pond.

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The Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents (MAGCS) 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 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.



"Image is everything" is a term that has been heard on TV and in the working world. The image that a person projects is very important. I recently had the pleasure of taking the GCSAA seminar, "Enhancing Your Value as a Professional Golf Course Superintendent." Our very own Tommy D. Witt was the instructor for the day. Many of the comments I heard that day praised the way Tommy put on the seminar. He was able to explain in many different ways how important the job of being a golf course superintendent is today. If you have the chance to take this seminar in the future, do so!

One of the handouts given to those assembled was a list of the responsibilities and skills required to be a sound golf course superintendent. The list ranged from rules of golf to irrigation to plant nutrition. Tommy asked if there were anymore items that should be added to the given list. Since the list was quite extensive, not many items were brought up. I took this list out the other day and did come up with a few others. We as golf superintendents wear many hats. Not only do we need to know the many aspects of the world of golf, but we also must

take care of the people we work for in many ways.

One of the items we can add to Tommy's list is "lifesaver." How many situations have you been in where you have been called a lifesaver. Just the other day, I rescued a stranded snowboard on a pond at the good old Geneva Golf Club. Many people, I am sure, have helped members or patrons jump-start a car. Other lifesaver items include loading or unloading a car or minivan. Most of these situations occur simply because we are around all the time.

Another item we can add is "listener." We don't have to pull out a couch and act like a shrink, but there are many times that we are more or less a great sounding board for people to get something off their minds. I love to talk (a lot of people know this fact already) to all of the many different people we come in contact with every day. I also like to listen. Take a minute to listen to the people we meet everyday. Listening is a skill. We all have that special skill within.

How many times have you picked up the phone and called one of your cohorts asking for help or a little support? Let's add "advisor" to the list. Many of us advice our fellow superintendents on a wide range of items. "Hey, Lukey, what is the name of the plant protectant you used to combat cutworm last week?" Many of us use the advice of our friends to determine if we should use a given product. We also depend on the advice of the many fine salespeople that we work with to tell us which product to use.

I mentioned another item in the last paragraph. Being a "good friend" is a skill in this day and age. In today's fast-paced world, it's becoming more and more dif-

ficult to have good friendships. The game of golf makes it a little easier to have a good time with the people you enjoy being with. Do yourself a favor this year and play a round of golf with someone different. Who knows who you can become friends with!

Last but not least, let's add "hero" to the list of skills and responsibilities. Many of us are looked at as heros for the various ways we can present and take care of our golf courses. Some of the budgets superintendents work with take a hero to make them work. Many of the projects that are carried out make heros out of many.

The skills and responsibilities we must possess are endless. All of the items on Tommy's list and any list in the future will be very important in order to keep up with the everchanging world of golf we live in. We all have a responsibility to keep our golf maintenance skills sharp and up to date!

Ed Braunsky, CGCS
President, MAGCS

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Like many of you, it was enriching to attend the GCSAA Conference. The networking and educational opportunities were many, and the trade show contained all of the equipment and supplies that we could ever need to do our jobs. As you read this, hopefully, we have all been filled with that renewed enthusiasm for another season that I feel after every GCSAA Conference (the warm weather doesn't hurt either).

I must admit that I thought the assignment of Education Chairman might be a little boring when Past-President Cross handed me that task over a year ago. Today, I am tickled to have the assignment for a second year. There is nothing boring about learning and expanding your mind, and I think the MAGCS offers a great deal to its members in terms of educational opportunities.

The Education Committee consists of Dan Albaugh, Tim Anderson, Kerry Blatteau, Tom Brodeur, Gary Hearn and Dr. Randy Kane. Dan and Tom are new to the committee, while the others have all served on this committee before. To date, we have met once and have a solid game plan together for the upcoming monthly meetings. We will meet again before the season warms up to finalize plans and start talking about the Midwest Clinic. As always, we welcome your input (an article for *On Course* is considered input too!).

In addition to the education at monthly meetings, we have several other irons in the fire. The GCSAA regional seminars were top-notch at Oak Brook Hills. I chose the Bahamas over Tommy Witt's new seminar, "Enhancing Your Value as a Professional Golf Superintendent," but I have heard several positive comments. Steps have already been taken to make sure these seminars, traditionally held in January, don't conflict with the Mid-Am dates next year. The MAGCS isn't the only group offering worthwhile education.

Seven Bridges was the site for a retirement planning seminar recently. We actually had to stop the question-and-answer session at the end because we were running into the lunch hour. (Imagine that!) As you read this, the Spanish seminar and the upcoming seminars for our equipment technicians will be history. I hope several of you or your

staff members found time to attend. Remember that sending employees (aside from being educational) can be a real moral booster. We are only as good as our staff is.

We have another idea or two in mind that may evolve into an educational session before the season gets rolling, but I won't stick my neck out that far at the moment. Finally, the "Ask the Expert" column will again appear in *On Course* beginning in April.

Shifting gears back to the GCSAA Conference for a moment, I would like to thank all of the vendors who have generously donated funds for the Hospitality Suite. The level of support again set records and exceeded our expectations. I'm wearing the party hat for the second time, and I think everyone enjoyed this year's Hospitality Suite. We were in a much larger room; and

(continued on page 30)

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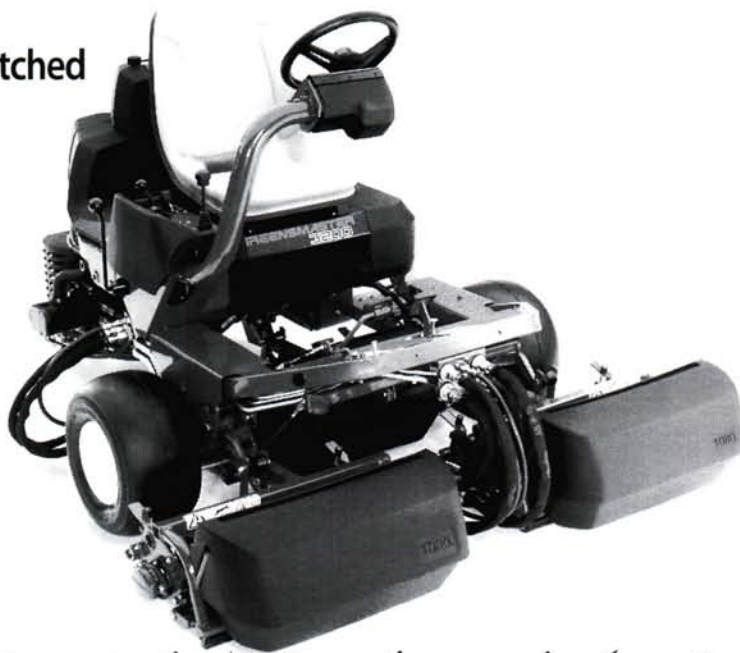
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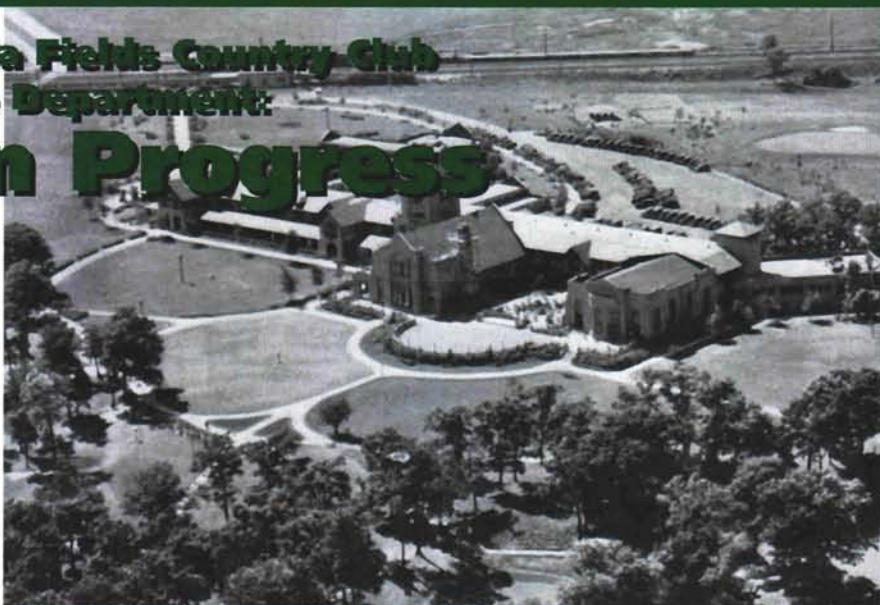
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Chronology of Olympia Fields Country Club Grounds Maintenance Department: A Work In Progress

Editors note: I had asked Dave Ward to do an article on Olympia Fields C.C. for this month. He is hosting the 1997 U.S. Senior Open on June 23 - 29. With the club being over 80 years old, I thought it would be interesting reading if Dave could find some of the club's history along with the art of greenkeeping back in "the old days." He did. I hope you will all enjoy this bit of history of the club from 1915 to 1944.



The double driveway west on 203d St. from depot, Kedzie Ave., extending to right upper corner, I.C.R.R., No.1 tee and 9th green of No.4 course may be seen beyond the autos. 18th green of No.3 course at bottom center, sunken. No.1 tee of No.1 course to left of left pathway. 18th greens on Course 1 and 2 may be seen among trees on left at bottom. Court and Dancing Pavillion and Putting Course in center.

*Dave Ward
Olympia Fields C.C.*

As one approaches middle age (by some definitions, I've already been here a while), I think a natural reaction is to become a little more reflective and look back to the past much as 20-year-old looks to the future. One realizes that twenty years is a relatively short time and that events that seem like ancient history didn't happen that long ago. We are linked to greenkeeping and greenkeepers of past years whose efforts and accumulated knowledge form a basis for the profession as we know it today.

Looking back through the historical records of Olympia Fields Country Club, one can find ample information on former club officials, golf professionals, tournaments, tournament winners and even club managers. Information on the history of grounds maintenance at the club is sketchy at best.

Olympia Fields Country Club was founded in 1915; and in 1917, the club started publishing The Olympian. Several yearly compellations of the magazine were saved starting in 1923 through 1944. From these Olympians and also from talking with several people with knowledge of the club's history, including Bob Williams, Pete Vandercook, Oscar Miles and some

older club members, I have compiled the following chronology which I view as a "work in progress." I hope to write a more thorough rendition for the Olympia Fields County Club Historian and would hope any reader would contact me with corrections, missing information, or insight into this chronology.

(continued on page 10)

Olympia Fields Country Club Golf Course Superintendents:

JAMES FOULES, JR.	GOLF PRO/SUPERINTENDENT	1917-1920
JAMES FOULES, JR.	SUPERINTENDENT	1920-1922
FRED KRUGER		1923-1940
JOHN BOETTGER		1940-
ARCHIE BRUNS	HEAD MECHANIC/SUPERINTENDENT	-1947
JOHN DURRAH		1947-1950
ARCHIE BRUNS		1950-1953
GORDON BRINKWORTH		1953-1959
WARREN BIDWELL		1959-1964
OSCAR MILES		1964-1975
DENNIS FULTON		1975-1976
WARREN BIDWELL		1976-1982
BRIAN CHALIFOUX		1982-1987
TOM RODEMS		1988-1990
DAVE WARD		1990-



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(continued from page 8)

Founding

The year was 1913 when Charley Beach and his friend Jim Gardner departed the Illinois Central train at Flossmoor and traveled by foot to explore the land which was to become Olympia Fields Country Club. After securing small deposits from 500 prospective members, a certificate of incorporation was granted by the State of Illinois on July 16, 1915. January of 1916 saw two important events. Amos Alanzo Stagg, the famed University of Chicago football coach, was elected the first club president. Options are taken on the 674 acres that were to become the club.

The property was made up of all or parts of 20 farms. The initiation fee was \$60 with annual dues of \$20.

Early Years

1916

A temporary 9-hole course with sand greens was made playable. Tom Bendelow was hired to design

*The property
was made up of all or
parts of 20 farms.
The initiation fee
was \$60 with
annual dues of \$20.*

the No.1 course (today's South Course). Another Scotsman, Willie Watson, was employed to design the No.2 course with the two to

collaborate on the No.3 course. One of America's early golf course architects, Bendelow worked for the Chicago sporting goods firm A.G. Spalding and Sons. Bendelow had a spotty reputation as an architect, although the No.1 course at Olympia has stood the test of time. He was also the original designer of the three courses at Medinah.

1917

On March 7, James Foulis, Jr., born in St. Andrews, Scotland, a golf course architect/construction foreman and winner of the 1896 U.S. Open, was hired as pro/superintendent to supervise the construction of the first three courses. Foulis was trained in golf by Old Tom Morris at St. Andrews. He came to Olympia Fields from Chicago Golf Club in Wheaton. On April 6,

(continued on page 12)

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