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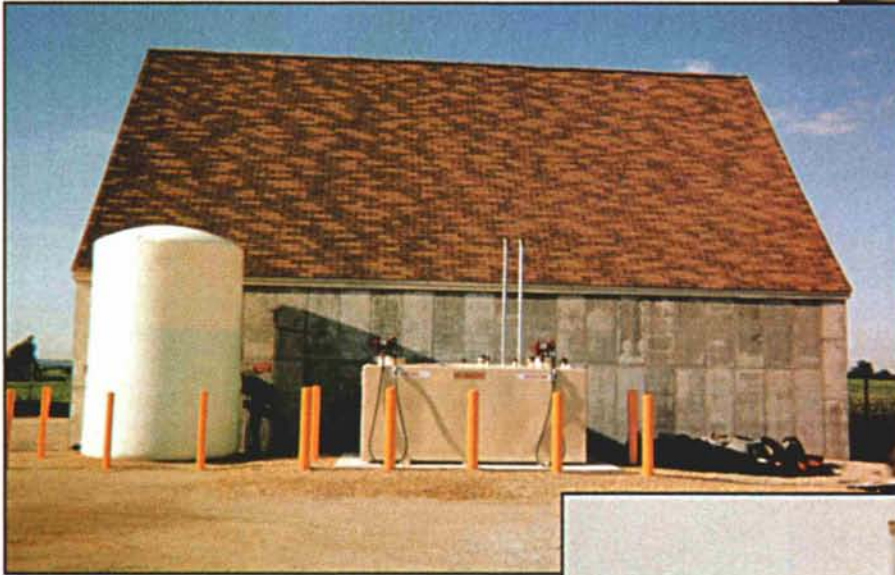
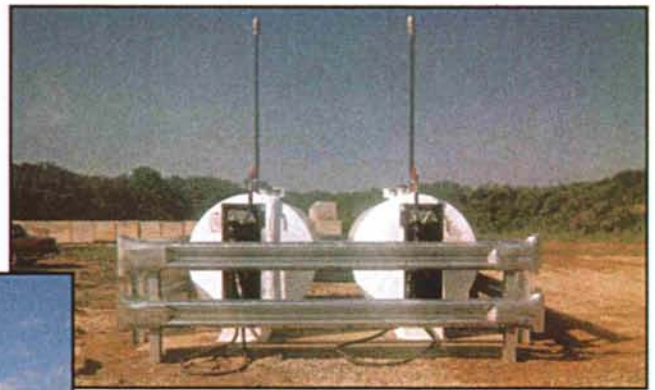
The Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents (MAGCS), founded December 24, 1926, is a professional organization whose goals include preservation and dissemination of scientific and practical knowledge pertaining to golf turf maintenance.

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.

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Kevin Czerkies, CGCS Sportsman's C.C.

The 69th GCSAA International Conference and Show is now history, but the memories will remain with many of us for a long time. Midwest members that didn't make the trip this year missed some excitement.

The Midwest hospitality room was the best ever. We obtained the largest room ever, contributions were at an all-time high, and the food and drinks were outstanding. I received many compliments on the room, but the guy who actually deserves the credit is Brian Bossert. Brian has done an excellent job with the arrangements. A lot of work goes into planning the room. Six months before the conference, Brian is on the phone negotiating with various conference hotels to see about room availability and costs. Then, three months before the conference, Brian solicits for funding from the commercial vendors. Contributions from commercial members total about 75 percent of the money needed to run the hospitality room. As the conference nears, Brian final-

izes the menu with the host hotel. Once the hospitality room begins, Brian is there from start to finish both nights making sure everything runs smoothly and we stay within our budget. I want to personally thank Brian for the time he put into this and say job well done.

Many of us realize that this room wouldn't be what it is today without the financial support of the MAGCS commercial members. I spoke with a couple of superintendents who are slightly older than myself during the time I spent in the hospitality room. They were telling me how the room was run a decade ago. All I can say is, we've come a long way in a short period of time. This can be attributed to the generosity of the commercial members. We must show our support to those companies that support us. There were many companies that donated to the hospitality room, not just the heavy hitters, but the smaller companies too. If you were fortunate enough to attend this year's hospitality room, you know how good it was, so don't forget to say thank you to the commercial members that supported this event and to Brian Bossert for his outstanding efforts.

The Midwest was well represented at the conference. As mentioned last month, we had several winners of environmental awards, and the list of GCSAA golf tournament winners that Luke Strojny was reading off sounded like the prize list at a MAGCS meeting. But, for those of you who missed it, Ed Braunsky delivered the best speech at the innovative superintendent session. He managed to bring an early morning crowd to laughter. The

use of slides, combined with his sense of humor, enlightened the crowd of nearly 2,000. His speech was entitled "The State of the Superintendent." Maybe we can get Ed to give it again at a Midwest meeting.

Speaking of Ed and Luke, while I was attending the gala and was listening to Trisha Yearwood sing her country hits, it seemed these two were putting on a show of their own at the Quality Hotel lounge. It was karaoke night, and when you get a few cocktails in these guys, they loosen up quite a bit. Ed got up and sang "Feelings," "Rhinestone Cowboy," and "I Say a Little Prayer for You," while Luke belted out "Ring of Fire," and "Margaritaville." Unfortunately, Tom Savage, Greg Thalmann, and Ernie Corsi were the only Midwest guys to witness this most unforgettable event.

Peter Jacobsen, Dan Quayle, and Ken Venturi were among the celebrities to address the GCSAA attendees during the conference. Mr. Jacobsen is an individual who isn't afraid to say what's on his mind. During his keynote speech, he stated that the golf course superintendent is the "Most Valuable Person at the golf course." He was so moved by the GCSAA Foundation Endowment Campaign that he donated \$25,000 to its cause.

On a sad note, while most of us were at the conference, we lost a dear friend and longtime MAGCS member, Adolph Bertucci. Many of us wanted to be at Adolph's funeral and felt bad that we couldn't. At the hospitality room, Paul Voykin said a few words about Adolph, and a moment of silence was observed.

(continued on page 6)

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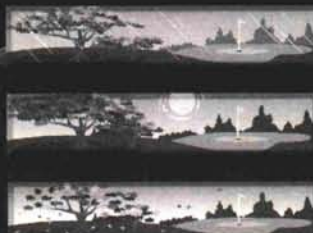
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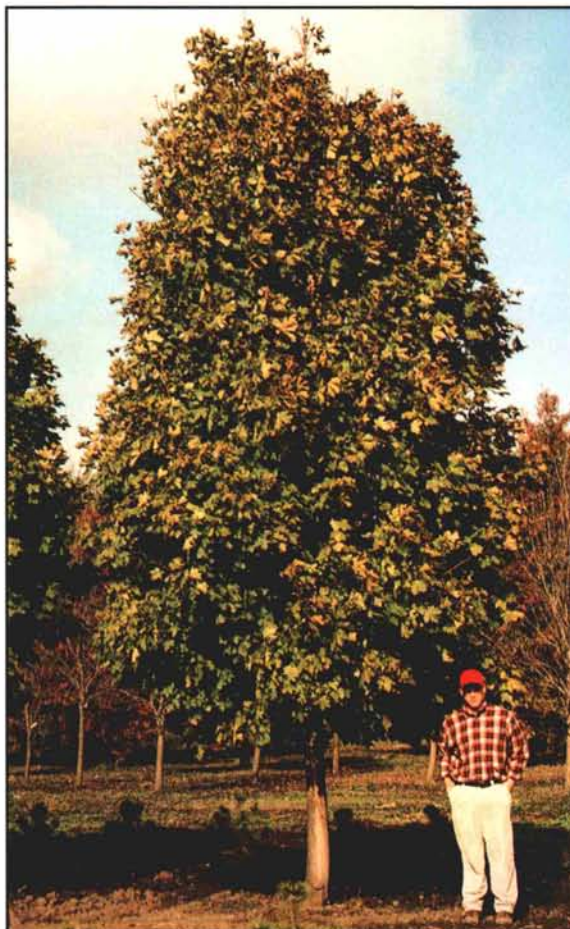
On Course With the President

(continued from page 4)

Adolph was known and loved by everyone. We'll truly miss him. Rest in peace, Adolph.

April brings us our first golf meeting of the new season. So dust off your clubs and come out and play at Schaumburg Golf Club. Nick Hongisto will be our host. Nick always has his course in excellent condition. I'll see you there.

Kevin Czerkies, CGCS
President, MAGCS



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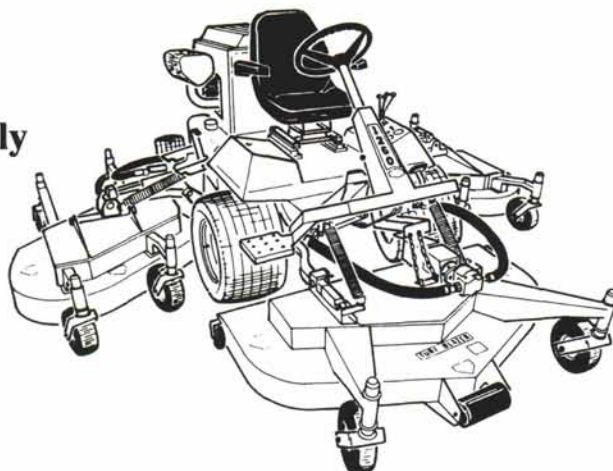
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*Fred Behnke
Mount Prospect G.C.*

The chair assignments of the 1998 version of the MAGCS Board of Directors find me with the Editorial Committee—scary isn't it. Really though, I'm honored to be entrusted with assisting our capable editor, Fred Opperman, in producing the magazine you are currently reading. Some of the members of our association belong to MAGCS solely because *On Course* comes with the price of admission. I know everyone enjoys getting it, and if you are like me, it's the first thing opened and read in that day's mail. *On Course* is the voice of the MAGCS; and since we've begun sending it to other course officials, our readership is wider than it has ever been.

It has been a couple of years since *the Bull Sheet* became *On Course* along with the attendant improvement in production quality, and I would be remiss if I didn't mention the incredible contribution Jim McNair, the outgoing editorial committee chairman, had in making the vision of the Board of Directors into a reality. He and the Editorial Committee that he put together (Dan Anderson, John Gurke, Randy Kane, Mike Mumper, Pat Norton, Ray Shmitz, Paul Yerkes and, this year, Luke Cella) deserve

a lot of credit along with Fred and Mark, our graphic artist, in taking *On Course* through the growing pains of the first years.

I am grateful for the continued participation of the Editorial Committee members, and I will work to ensure that our publication continues to meet our membership's expectations.

My previous experience in publishing was limited to throwing newspapers on porches when I was a kid. Suspecting this, President Czerkies asked me if I would attend the chapter newsletter editor's workshop in Anaheim at the National. Fred and I both attended (Fred for the umpteenth time, me for the first), and I was exposed to valuable insights shared by newsletter editors from around the nation.

There are several problems that all the attendees had in common, the first being those related to production, deadlines, ad copy, postage—that sort of thing. I had no idea of the complexity of producing a publication the size and quality of *On Course*, and I still don't really understand the whole gamut (don't get hit by a bus, Fred).

I could relate to the second problem. Each and every newsletter editor in that room, from the superintendent who whipped out a two-pager each month all by himself to the guy from Florida who, along with his staff, published in excess of 100 pages every month, complained about how hard it was to get their members to contribute original articles. Some of the guys (and girls—many editors are of the female persuasion) had some pretty clever

(continued on page 26)

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Nick Hongisto -N- Schaumburg Golf Club

*Fred Behnke
Mount Prospect G.C.*

When Nick Hongisto finally got a lovely coed at Northern Illinois University named Diane to agree to go out with him, he knew the evening had to be special. So he got front row tickets to the local Demolition Derby, and they spent the evening dodging flying bumpers and mufflers. When he finally caught up with Diane again, he must have done some pretty fast talking, because today they're married and have two boys, Andy (age 9) and Peter (age 7).

Nick is the golf course superintendent for the Schaumburg Park District and our host for the MAGCS first golf meeting of 1998 at the Schaumburg Golf Club. Nick also manages the turf for the park district's other fine golf course, Walnut Greens. Together with his assistants, Jim Roberts at Schaumburg and Bob Czajka at Walnut Greens, Nick provides 36 holes of quality golf for the residents of Schaumburg where green space is at a premium.

Nick spent some time at NIU and graduated from Kishwaukee College in 1983, where he currently serves on their Horticultural/Agricultural Advisory Board. He got his start in the golf business at the Kishwaukee Country Club working on the grounds from 1978 through 1983. In 1986, after a couple of years away from golf, Nick was hired by the Schaumburg Park District to take care of their new 9-hole golf course and has been there ever since.

In 1990, the Schaumburg Park District bought the financially strapped Golden Acres Country Club (known affectionately as



No. 6 hole of the tournament course.

Concrete Acres to those of us who played the course years ago) and poured over \$5 million into renovating the golf course.

The new Schaumburg Golf Club boasts 27 holes, is designed by Bob Lohman, and features bentgrass greens, tees and fairways. Nick says that the

renovation was closer to a rebuilding because the master plan included some hole reroutings, a new maintenance center to the tune of \$800,000, and over \$3.5 million in "on course" improvements. The remaining \$1+ million went to build a new clubhouse. The renovation process was phased in over three years, one nine at a time. The entire project was bid out, each nine as a separate project, and resulted in four different contractors being involved in building the golf course and installing the irrigation system. Nick credits Bob Lohman and his staff with riding herd over this potentially troublesome situation and says you can't tell one nine from the other in terms of construction quality control. One of the distinguishing features of

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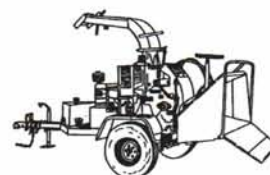
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