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Golf Course Managers

Are you planning to remodel or renovate several holes on your golf course?
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GolfVisions and its principals have a proven track record of providing exceptional construction and remodeling services to the golf industry. With a team of experienced personnel, financial resources and premier equipment, GolfVisions stands ready to meet your project's needs today. We will give your project the attention, service and expertise you require to translate your "golf vision" into reality.

OUR MIDWEST EXPERIENCE

Current/upcoming projects include:

- Hodge Park G.C., Kansas City, MO
- Jackpot Junction, Morton, MN
- Broken Arrow G.C., Lockport, IL
- The Glenview Club, Glenview, IL

Our principals have guided these local construction efforts, and many more:

- Worth Municipal G.C., Worth, IL, opened spring 1999
- Settler's Hill G.C., Batavia, IL
- Maple Meadows G.C., Wood Dale, IL
- Highland Park C.C., Highland Park, IL
- The Sanctuary, New Lenox, IL
- Iron Horse G.C., Tuscola, IL
- Sportsman C.C., Northbrook, IL
- Emerald Hills G.C., Sterling, IL
- Sand Creek C.C., Chesterton, IN
- Des Moines G.C., Des Moines, IA, site of 1999 Senior U.S. Open
- Royal Fox G.C., St. Charles, IL
- Broken Arrow G.C., Lockport, IL
- White Mountain G.C., Orland Park, IL
- Delbrook G.C., Delavan, WI
- Thornberry Creek G.C., Green Bay, WI
- Sunset Valley C.C., Highland Park, IL
- Eagle Brook C.C., Geneva, IL
- Brown Deer Park G.C., Milwaukee, WI, site of 1998 Greater Milwaukee Open

OUR PHILOSOPHY

At GolfVisions, our priorities are:

- Realizing the architect's vision through exceptional shaping and finish grading
- Employing talented and experienced personnel to construct the best golf course infrastructure with attention to:
 - Drainage
 - Irrigation
 - Grassing methodology
 - Quality materials
- Preserving golf course design integrity
- Providing long-term value to the client
- Striving to exceed client expectations
- Working with clients in an atmosphere of mutual respect and achieving our clients' goals

GolfVisions' mindset is compatible with that of golf course superintendents. In fact, three of our principals, president Tim Miles, Sr., and vice-presidents Tom Jauch and Doug Long, started out in the golf industry as superintendents. While our experience and reputation are national--our team has done work nationwide and we have an office in Show Low, AZ--we are dedicated to bringing the best of golf to the Midwest.

GolfVisions Corporate
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GolfVisions is a member of the Golf Course Builders Association of America and the GCSAA.

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EDITOR: **Cathy Miles Ralston**

276 Lincoln Terrace

Buffalo Grove, IL 60089

Phone & Fax: 847-537-7883

E-mail: on_course@hotmail.com

CONTRIBUTING EDITOR: **John Gurke**

E-mail: Boomding@aol.com

GRAPHIC ARTIST: **Mark Karczewski**

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FEATURES

Now on the Internet
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FRONT COVER

Odyssey Club

4 ON COURSE WITH THE PRESIDENT

Bob Maibusch

6 Dan Quast & Co. Ready Magnificent Medinah for the "Last Major of the Millennium"

Cathy Ralston

8 DIRECTOR'S COLUMN

Dan Anderson

10 SUPER -N- SITE PROFILE: Ray Schei -N- Odyssey Club

John Gurke

12 FEATURE ARTICLE: Using Composts to Improve Turf Ecology

F. Dan Dinelli

28 ASK THE "EXPERT": Water, Water, Water . . .

Chuck Anfield

30 GCSAA News

32 Young Wives' Tales

Alice Morrison

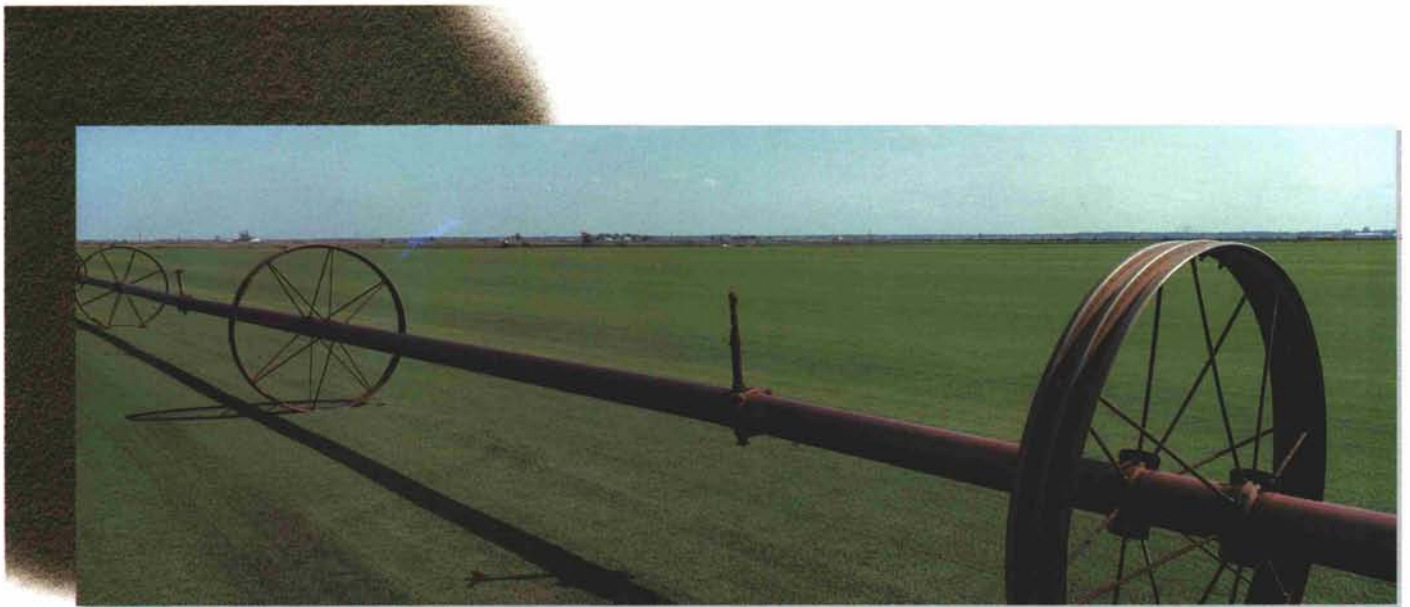
34 THE BULL SHEET

John Gurke

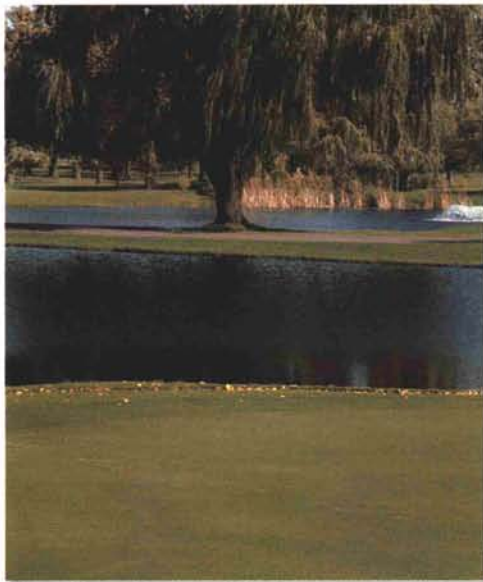
The Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents (MAGCS), founded December 24, 1926, is a professional organization whose goals include preservation and dissemination of scientific and practical knowledge pertaining to golf turf maintenance.

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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Tom Jauch

Vice-President GolfVision LLC

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Lawrence Flament,
Stonewall Orchard Golf Club

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Bob Maibusch, CGCS, MG
Hinsdale G.C.

Home stretch! As hot and humid as it may get this month, we know that the days are getting shorter and Labor Day is just around the corner. It's just a matter of time before summer stress conditions begin to subside. This is often replaced by a different challenge: fall projects.


If your club is like the one that I manage, then your workload often increases in the fall. At some point summertime becomes routine. We know that we will be faced with the challenges of disease, drought, heat and humidity. As difficult as these may be to manage, they can become mundane challenges.

I remember my first day on the job as an assistant to Dave Ward (now at Olympia Fields C.C.) at Kenosha C.C. in 1979. We met Skip Willms (Onwentsia C.C.), who was then the golf course superintendent at Racine C.C., for lunch. During that meal, Skip told me that I should take advantage of my time as an assistant to learn as much as possible. He also said that once you have been a golf course superintendent for a few years, that the job of

maintaining the golf course becomes routine and that even though it is additional work, you begin to look forward to the challenge of improvement projects. At the time, I could not fathom that the daunting task of maintaining a golf course to highly professional standards would ever be routine. But it is true that over time it does become almost second nature. Projects become a way to interest and sharpen our skills. The added pressures of attempting to complete a project without diminishing the quality of day-to-day maintenance, and getting it all done before the onset of winter, add to the challenge.

I have gained knowledge through the completion of improvement projects that I would never have had the chance to acquire in any other way. It has also afforded a wonderful opportunity to get to know other people in the industry. Our fellow industry professionals, whether they are golf course superintendents, architects, irrigation contractors, shapers, engineers, etc., have a wealth of experience that is readily tapped. I am constantly reminded of how lucky we are to work in an industry where professional courtesies and knowledge are so freely shared. The experience of working with, learning from and getting to know other industry professionals through improvement projects has been invaluable to my growth as a golf course superintendent and has enriched my life personally as well.

A great sense of pride comes from completing a major improvement task and knowing that your facility is a better place because of your diligent efforts and the dedication and cooperation of a great staff and supporting cast of contractors, suppliers and consultants. The

satisfaction of building a winning team and seeing that team accomplish things that might otherwise seem impossible or much too expensive is one of the continuing appeals of our jobs. It is also a good reason for clubs to think twice about replacing an experienced superintendent. An experienced golf course superintendent can usually save his employer significantly more than the higher wage that he has earned. If you have never taken the time to calculate what a project cost your club to implement in-house, as compared to the potential expense of a turnkey operation where everything from project management to the actual work was left to a general contractor, you may be surprised at just how valuable you are to your facility's operation. It is not a bad idea to remind your employer of that value on occasion as well, especially since budget time is approaching for many of us. 

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Dan Quast & Co. Ready Magnificent Medinah for the "Last Major of the Millennium"



Dan Quast (pictured here on #17) revamped this par 3, moving the green back from the water's edge so the hole plays 206 yards rather than its previous 165. The old green, with its 5% slope, was unfair and exasperated even the likes of Jack Nicklaus.

Cathy Ralston

It's being billed as the "Last Major of the Millennium," and it's being held in our own backyard—so to speak. After all, comparing the fabled Medinah

C.C. to anybody's backyard is some sort of sacrilege.

For the last three years, Medinah's grounds manager Dan Quast, CGCS, and his staff have been preparing Course #3—

Chicagoland's top-rated links and one of the top 20 courses nationwide — for the PGA Championship, which will run here August 9-15.

(continued on page 22)

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Dan Anderson

7his article is being written during the last couple days of June. What a weird month this has been. June started out with a two-week blast of heat and humidity, then comes a record low. The record was 123 years old. After more heat, we are now in our second cold front of the month. Finally, some time to catch my breath (and time to write this article).

Last fall, I started going back to school to get an MBA. I've already finished two management courses, but my progress is not the subject matter here. I am going to try to articulate some of my thoughts and discoveries on work and education, especially in terms of how they relate to the past and how I see them in the future.

It used to be that if you gave great effort, you were rewarded with job security. That no longer is true. We have shifted from "lifetime employment" to "lifetime employability." You may ask, what is the difference? The difference is that what used to be a lifetime job is now just an opportunity to work. Years of faithful service can be meaningless. Our employers

constantly ask, "Is he/she employable?" Has the superintendent grown enough to take advantage of new technologies, research, chemicals and equipment? Is the superintendent a liability or an asset? Let's hope for the latter.


Here I must give credit to all greenkeepers and superintendents, and those striving to become one. Our profession has always embraced education. Whether through formal training, networking or socializing, this profession has continually looked to do the job cheaper, faster or better. We constantly strive to improve. We are very seldom satisfied and we are our own worst critics. This will serve us well in the future if we maintain these work and learning ethics.

Why do we do this? It's not because we're overpaid, over-appreciated and underworked; quite the contrary. It's because we have great pride in ourselves and our work.

I decided to get into this business after reading an article written by a superintendent that was among the literature in my high school counselor's office. The superintendent explained his feelings about being one—his love for nature, and the joy of being able to see the dawning of each new day at his course. This man had great pride. Being a superintendent wasn't about a job for money, it was about a job he loved: about a job where he constantly strove to improve course conditions while educating himself in his trade.

Today, we are lucky to have so many educational opportunities available. I doubt you need me to list any, but here are some options:

- National association meetings, seminars, books, videos, etc.
- Local association meetings, seminars, outings
- Turf schools' short courses
- The Internet
- Colleges and junior colleges
- Trade publications
- Playing another golf course
- Social gatherings with your peers

Don't underestimate the last two, either; many times I have found that I have learned some of the most valuable information in an informal setting. An old friend once told me, "The day you stop learning, you might as well be dead;" though I don't totally agree with him, he does have a point. Life is a continuous learning process. So if you're interested in some fun, learning and socializing, I look forward to seeing you at our next meetings, at the Odyssey Club on August 17 and at Bull Valley on September 13. As Golf Committee chairman, I would like to thank all the volunteers, including the hosting superintendents and their staff. They are the reason we can host our events—and offer formal and informal educational opportunities. 

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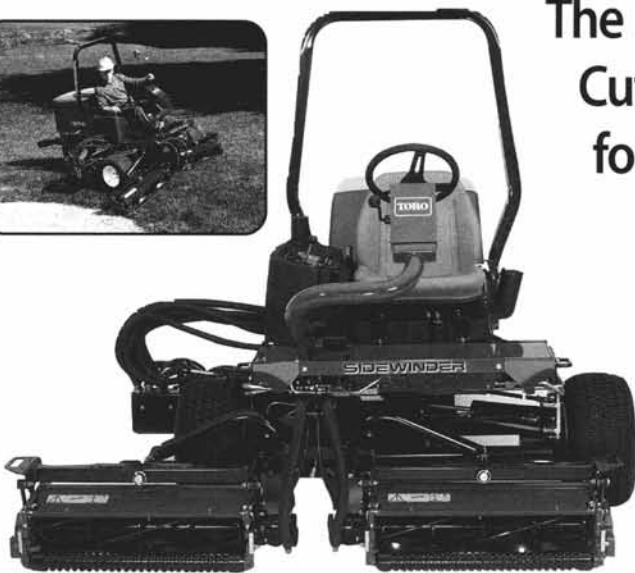
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Ray Schei -N- Odyssey Club

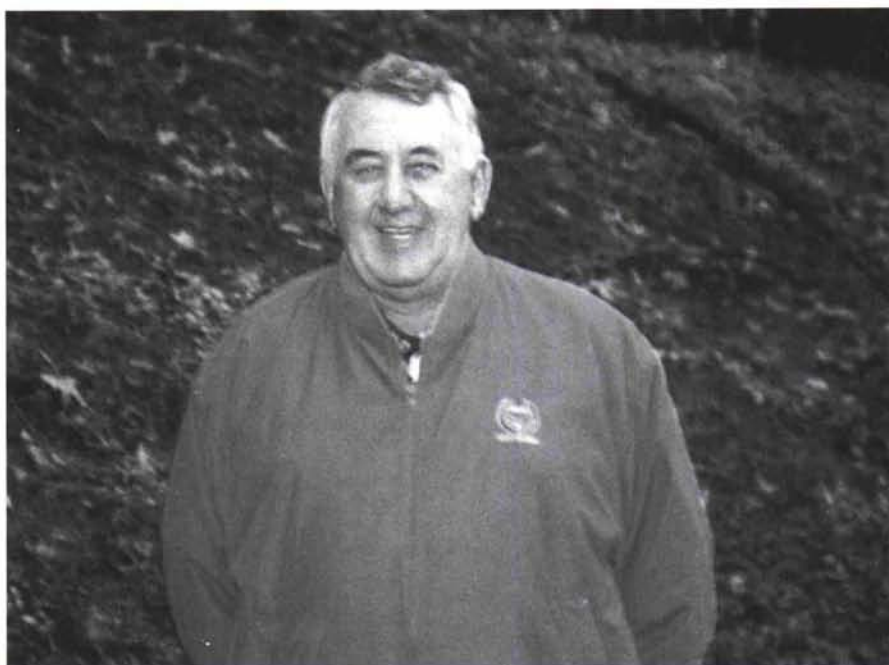
John Gurke

Ray Schei is hosting his LAST meeting! Our long-time friend and MAGCS member has been more than generous in the past by hosting “a @#%*load” of meetings at the several clubs he’s been associated with, and is now ready to pass the torch.

Ray began his illustrious career working for Marv Greuning as assistant superintendent of the Midwest Club in 1952. In 1962, Ray took his first superintendent’s position at Acacia C.C., where he remained until 1968. From there, Ray went on to Plum Tree National until 1972, when he left for the greener pastures of Fox Lake C.C.

In 1976, Ray moved on to Ruth Lake C.C., serving as superintendent there until 1987. The opportunity to grow-in an Arnold Palmer signature course took Ray to White Eagle from 1987 to 1990, when he made his last move to Odyssey Club. This will be the second MAGCS meeting at Odyssey, and Ray will undoubtedly have the course in immaculate condition.

On the personal front, Ray is married to Betty, his devoted wife since 1955. They have two children and two grandchildren. Ray’s parting thoughts in our interview were to encourage other MAGCS members who have not hosted a meeting to do so. According to Ray, it’s a great motivation to attend to all of those details that can get lost in the shuffle of a busy summer, and to give a little back to your association. We all look forward to seeing our friend Ray on August 17. 



Ray Schei

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