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FRONT COVER

White Hawk Country Club's no. 2 is a 585-yard par 5.
(Photo by Jim Trzinski/Compliments of Waupaca Sand & Solutions)

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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.

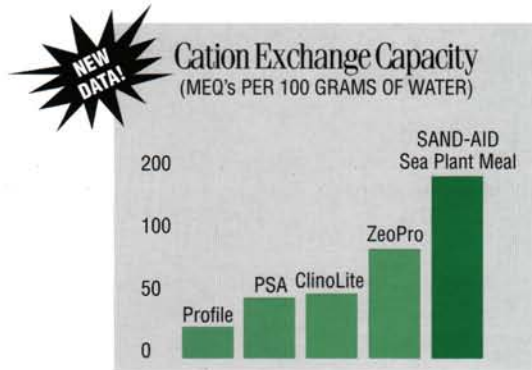
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University of Arkansas, 2001, by Dr. Mike Richardson

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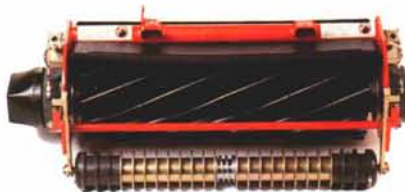
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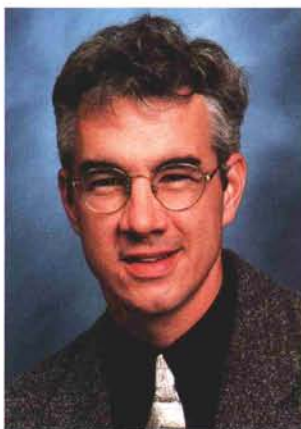
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Just Today

My Saturday was not unlike any of yours. Our staff was scrambling to keep the “hot spots” wet on a scorching, dry end to the month of June. I was also looking to keep a promise to my wife that I would be home at 9:30 a.m. for a few hours. The hot day would require me back at the course in the afternoon and we would also be driving out of town that evening for a family birthday celebration. Life was zipping along at its usual hectic speed. Then I received the first of several calls regarding Tod Hoppfan’s sudden and fatal accident. Everything just stopped and my thoughts became reorganized. These unfortunate and life-changing moments have a way of forcing things into perspective.

*Living every day
“to the fullest”
should not mean
living to great
indulgence. Some
people like to call
that “living large.”
Being right with
your God and your
fellow man should
be a priority.*

On behalf of the Association, we extend our deepest sympathy to the Hoppfan family. I hope there is some comfort in knowing that our family of superintendents has sent many thoughts and prayers in their direction. I was not a close friend of Tod’s, but as a husband, father and fellow superintendent, I feel a strong sense of loss. As I mentioned at the Orchard Valley meeting, I also feel a strong sense of gratitude for working in this industry. The camaraderie that abounds in this business is special. I realize that I take for granted the opportunity our Association provides: the simple act of getting together once a month. You don’t get to do that in every line of work and the regular opportunity for fellowship and to educate ourselves is indeed a precious benefit.

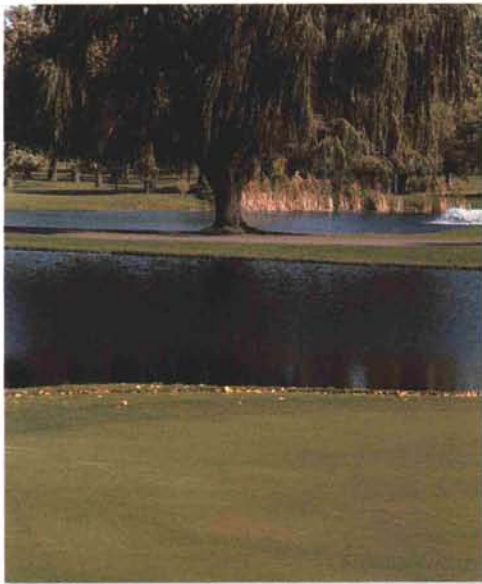
Tod was an active member of the Association, having served on several committees over the years. He also hosted a meeting last year, complete with those great complimentary hats and the resurrection of the coat and tie with dinner tradition. To be sure, Tod was following in the energetic footsteps of his father in terms of service to the industry.

In conversation over the past days, I have heard several thoughts and perspectives following this unfortunate tragedy. I can’t help but elaborate on one statement that I think is misinterpreted (and mislived) in this day and age. Living every day “to the fullest” should not mean living to great indulgence. Some people like to call that “living large.” Tod’s death is a grim reminder that today and “right now” is all of which we are assured. Being right with your God and your fellow man should be a priority. “Getting as much as you can out of life” should be less of a priority. If not for one juvenile’s overindulgence, a family may be one father, one son and one husband stronger.

(continued on page 37)



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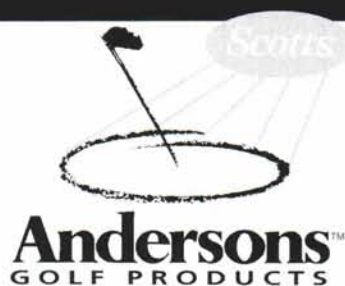
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2001: A Golf Odyssey


What do Bob Kronn, Dave Mayzel, Kerry Blatteau, Steve Van Acker and Todd Schmitz have in common? They were MAGCS golf champions of their respective flights for the year 2000. We hope that these past champions will return to defend their titles this September at Barrington Hills Country Club.

You may already have noticed that the merchandise for prizes and the flags used for golf events have the 75th anniversary logo on them. We have a sign-up sheet for those wishing to purchase a 75th anniversary flag for \$20.

According to the MAGCS Golf Committee's standard operating procedures, all annual tournament competitors must have attended at least two MAGCS events this year, prior to the annual tournament. The ITF combined meeting will count towards the total of the two-meeting requirement. Plaques will be awarded for low gross in the Championship Flight, and low net scores in the First, Second, Third, Commercial A and Commercial B flights.

We will also enforce the requirement of every competitor maintaining a handicap with a corresponding GHIN number. It takes five scores to establish a valid handicap. Anyone without the proper resources to establish a handicap can reach me at 815-758-5273.

You may already have noticed that the merchandise for prizes and the flags used for golf events have the 75th anniversary logo on them. The logo was developed by Don Ferreri and the 75th Anniversary Committee, and it sure looks great on the flags and merchandise. We have a sign-up sheet for those wishing to purchase a 75th anniversary flag for \$20. I will also be willing to sell, at cost, the merchandise we have on hand. Please sign up at the registration table at one of the upcoming events, e-mail me at philatkcc@aol.com or call me at 815-758-5273.

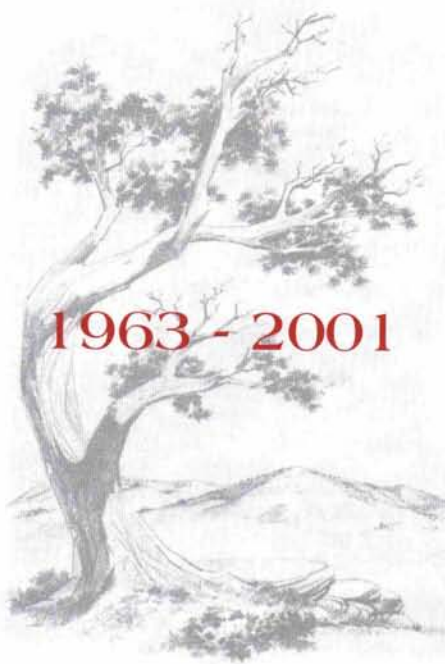
Please remember to establish a handicap and report your handicap and GHIN number on the sign-up sheet. Also keep in mind the "two-meeting" rule for the annual championship. I hope to see you in September at Barrington Hills Country Club with your "A" game, ready for the challenge of unseating our reigning champions. 


In Memory of Tod Hoppphan



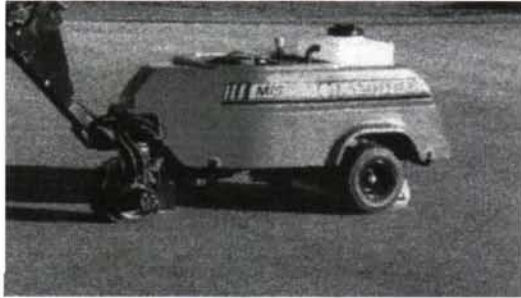
*“Sometimes it seems like a man ain’t the master of his own destiny . . .
The ball takes a funny bounce here or a putt takes a funny little turn . . .”*

~ Sam Snead



As we are all aware, the Midwest lost one of its members on Saturday, June 30. Tod Hoppphan, superintendent of Elgin Country Club, husband to Debra, father to Chad, Jenna and Claire, nephew of Hans, and son of longtime MAGCS member Carl, was killed in an automobile accident while on his way to work. Words cannot express the sudden and tragic nature of this accident that took the life of a 37-year-old man. I had known Tod since our college days, and our paths seemed to cross frequently thereafter. Tod worked for his father at Aurora Country Club, and was responsible for the tree nursery that still exists there and which I pass on my way to the shop every morning. We would see each other at U of I alumni meetings. We’d see each other at MAGCS meetings and CAGCS meetings. My last correspondence with Tod was on the MAGCS message board, where we exchanged barbs about bunker edging. I never could have imagined that this would be our last discussion. Now we have only the memories—good memories of what a great guy he was. Generous is a word that comes to mind. Tod was always there to host a meeting, to help out a friend or to have a kind word. What I did not know became clear at the lovely memorial service on July 7—Tod was a devout Christian who played an integral part in his church. The impact he had on those around him was evidenced by the huge showing of friends and family there. We were treated to a glance at a side of Tod that many did not know existed—a man of God and church and family. A man whose purpose in life was as clearly defined as black on white. Tod knew what his life was about, and shared it with those around him in the best ways he was able—through drama, through humor and through love. Our deepest sympathies go out to Tod’s family and friends during this very trying time. 

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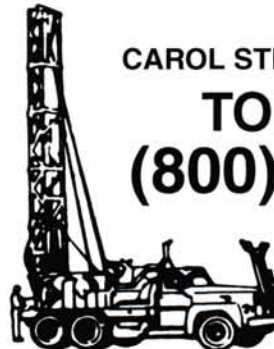
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*"Where Meadow Goes,
the Water Flows"*

Remembering John Buck



Holly Gilmour (L, center)
and John Buck (R, center)
with two of John's
countless friends.

One of the greatest rewards of being a member of the MAGCS is the sense of fraternity in the relationships that we develop over the years in the pursuit of our profession. We are drawn together through our efforts to achieve a common goal. Whether we are selling products, representing a manufacturer, servicing equipment or growing grass, we are the industry of golf course management. We have recently lost a major player in our local profession in the passing of John Buck.

*... he was always
the kind of person
that was willing
to help, wherever
it was needed.
Whether it was
personal or profes-
sional, you could
always count on
John Buck and
that friendly smile.*

I would like to use a few column inches here in the publication he was very quick to support when we made the transition to the upgraded color format. When *the Bullsbeet* was evolving to become *On Course*, many additional costs were being incurred. This necessitated that the advertising rates be raised to cover these costs. At the time, there was a fair amount of skepticism on the part of the MAGCS Board of Directors that we would be able to pay for these improvements solely through advertising revenue. One of the keys to making this happen was that we had to sell every one of the back cover color ads for the next year. We had sent out the notice to advertisers of the opportunity to buy space for full-color ads and had only received orders for half (six months) of the issues. For some reason, J.W. Turf hadn't received the notice. When I called John to see if I could interest him in buying some of the remaining spots, he said, "Hell yes! I'll buy 'em all." The next year, when one of the major chemical manufacturers that had purchased three months' worth of color ads had to cancel their commitment because of a merger, we were once again faced with an advertising shortfall. Once again, John purchased these spots in addition to what he had already booked.

I guess I want everyone to know that he was always the kind of person that was willing to help, wherever it was needed. Whether it was personal or professional, you could always count on John Buck and that friendly smile.