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FRONT COVER

Golf Digest has ranked Point O' Woods G.C. #80 among the nation's top 100 golf courses. Ron Fox invites the MAGCS to enjoy a round at this celebrated layout during our June meeting.

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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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Take Me to the River

It was great to have a sold-out event at the opening golf meeting in April. Thanks to Dan Albaugh and his staff at Ruffled Feathers for providing everyone in attendance with a very nice day! Our future meetings were a challenge to schedule. Thank you to the clubs that stepped up and volunteered; we look forward to seeing everybody in Michigan, Illinois and Indiana over the summer. We truly are a "Midwest" Association of Golf Course Superintendents!

I've got to pass along one of the coolest family experiences I can ever recall. Running (jogging to people who don't do it very quickly) is very ingrained with my wife's family . . . in late April, eight members of the Brackenbury family (no ringers allowed) toed the line for an 80-mile relay race in southern Illinois.

For those of you who have not heard; the Midwest Golf House in Lemont opened during the middle of April. I was glad to see a few members drop by before the Ruffled Feathers meeting to see the new quarters. Our Association is fortunate to be one of the organizations allied with the CDGA that can call this building home (well, sort of). I have been asked enough questions to realize that a few items should be clarified. At this point, we will not be moving our Association's operations to the Midwest Golf House. Currently, George Minnis, our executive secretary, does an outstanding job from his home office and our Board hopes George will continue to serve our Association for many years. However, this new venue will host many of our Board and committee meetings and perhaps a monthly meeting next winter. The Golf House features a beautiful, state-of-the-art auditorium that seats 100. This venue will also house a library where we can display memorabilia from our 75-year past and recognize the efforts of the superintendent in a place that is truly a home to the game of golf.

Perhaps the most exciting and valuable aspect of our involvement is the future research that will be conducted at the Midwest Golf House. Dr. Randy Kane is set up with a new lab and greenhouse. The new three-hole golf course that is to be seeded in the fall, perhaps opening next summer, will include plenty of experimental plots. The CDGA has been kind enough to furnish our office with cutting-edge computer equipment and new office furniture. Our nominal lease is less than a small storage space rental and does not go into effect until we "move in" to some extent. The earliest I can foresee something like that taking place would be the upcoming winter, and perhaps the move isn't justified for a few years. The Board continues to weigh this decision and we will keep you posted.

While this would actually be a good juncture to close this month's message, if I did end here then the headline wouldn't make a great deal of sense. So . . . I've got to pass along one of the coolest family experi-

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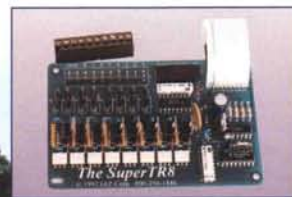
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An Education Ruminations

How ironic—both of my parents are schoolteachers and here I am, the chairperson of the Education Committee. It is very exciting to serve on the Board during this historic time, as we all reflect on how the Midwest Association has evolved over the past 75 years.

Medinah C.C. will once again host the Midwest Turf Clinic on November 7, and by now you should all surmise what the theme will be: our 75th anniversary. Just a quick synopsis of the event (nothing is set in stone): a history of the MAGCS, evolution of equipment, statesmen and mentors, keynote speaker, history of the Bull Sheet/On Course, science/research speaker, and our Association's future.

Personally, I have been involved with the Association for only 15 years, but my relationship with golf goes back much further. It's a proven fact that the impressionable years occur very early, at five or six years of age. I have to give credit to my father for his desire to be a great golfer; he had the drive and was an excellent athlete, so he decided to work his summers on a golf course to hone his skills. So needless to say, at the young age of five I spent many days on that golf course hanging out with the crew and the owner/superintendent—Mr. Dale Rathbun of Kappa G.C. near Bloomington, Illinois. As you do the math, you see that I have been around golf courses for 38 years, but at the age of 22 I knew what I really wanted to do—fly jets. But I settled for a career on the golf course instead.

Let's flash forward to 2001 and give a lot of kudos to the MAGCS. This is a very powerful organization that comprises a great number of gifted and talented superintendents; our golf courses are top-notch and highly acclaimed throughout the United States; we have superintendents who do internal research and are willing to share it with other superintendents; *On Course* magazine is getting better all the time with color photography and advertisements and outstanding articles; and the Board of Directors is striving for very high standards, bringing all of us more value in our membership.

This is my first year on the Board of Directors, but I have served four years on committees—three years on the Education Committee under President Brian Bossert and Secretary/Treasurer Kevin DeRoo, who have been great role models for what I hope is my success in booking some excellent educators. The Committee and I have been cranking out ideas for the upcoming year—ideas for monthly meetings, Midwest Turf Clinic, NCTE, GCSAA seminars and MAGCS seminars.

First, a rundown of the monthly meetings. June's speaker will be Dr. Joe Vargas from Michigan State, July will feature Rich Kozlowski on college funding (529 plans) and August's headliner will hopefully be

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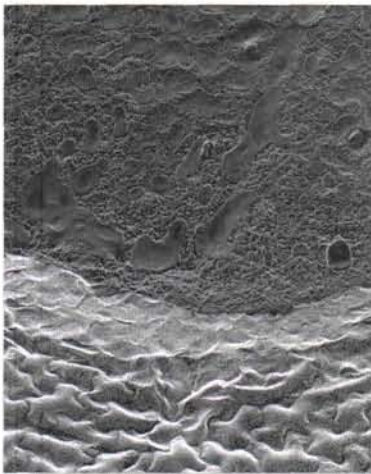


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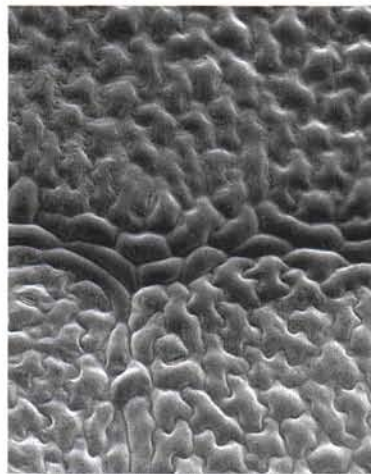
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