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AUGUST 2002

Volume 56 No.3

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Hole no. 12 at Green Acres C.C. is a par 5.
(Photo by Jim Trzinski)

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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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The Dog Days Are Here . . . And We're Dog-Tired

We have finally reached the "dog days" of summer. I, for one, am looking forward to an end to this season. What else is new—I always look forward to the end of the season.

But 2002 has been a year of tests. The weather hasn't been the best, play is down and players' expectations are higher than ever. It's no wonder most superintendents are burned out by July 4.

When I am feeling the effects of burnout, I tend to start procrastinating. I become a pro at putting things off until tomorrow. When this happens, I know it's time to start taking some time off. It has taken me MANY years to realize that the course will still be there if I don't come to work for a day or leave a little early. Although I do not follow my own advice all the time, when I do take time off I usually return with a better attitude towards the job. There is nothing worse than going through a stressful period with a bad attitude. Try to take some time off this summer when the weather permits. I think you will find that it will do you a world of good.

Enough about the superintendent's burnout. What about your staff? Our staffs are just an extension of the superintendents. When a superintendent begins to feel burnt out, so does his staff. This is the time of year when a thousand little things may go wrong. Collars start to get scalped, cups get cut on a 45-degree angle or Joe doesn't want to work with John anymore. When the problems begin, it is time for action.

My staff, for example, will not take a lot of time off. However, during the World Cup soccer games in June, they often wanted to take an extra-long lunch so they could watch the repeat of certain games, and this was fine with me. If we have an exceptionally busy week, I may let them go a little early with pay on a Friday or on one of those hot, humid days. Once again, a light workload with a little extra-long lunch goes a long way for morale. Also, most of us sponsor some type of staff lunch or outing. I am a firm believer in taking care of the employees so they will not become burnt out.

Let's face it: During the season, most of us spend more time with our staff than with our own families. We all like to think that our courses couldn't survive without us, but if you really think about it, could any course survive without a good maintenance staff?

Some recent tragedies involving golf course maintenance staff members prompted me to take another look at my staff. I know it would be very upset-

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*It has taken
me MANY years
to realize that
the course will
still be there
if I don't come
to work for a
day or leave
a little early.*

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The 50th Annual Midwest Turf Clinic—

Future: The State of the Art

As chair of the Education Committee, I have been rather lucky in the last two years, guiding the creation of programs to honor the 75th anniversary of the Association and this year's 50th Annual Midwest Turf Clinic. Unfortunately, my personal life has seen some tragedy with the death of my brother and his fiancé. I would like to offer many thanks to my colleagues and the MAGCS Board of Directors for their support during these hard times.

The creation of the clinic began with "The Search for Knowledge;" in our profession, as in many fields of endeavor, there are pioneers, people willing to climb a few mountains and cross a river or two in search of knowledge.

Reflecting now on the history of the Midwest Turf Clinic, I came across some interesting commentary in the archives of the education file. These are excerpts from the writings of Mrs. John C. Ebel in 1984. The creation of the clinic began with "The Search for Knowledge;" in our profession, as in many fields of endeavor, there are pioneers, people willing to climb a few mountains and cross a river or two in search of knowledge. Our pioneers were Ray Davis, Frank Dinelli, Ed Stewart, Bob Williams, Bert Rost, Norm Johnson, Peter Bild, Bill Stuppel, Wes Updegraff, Al Johnson, Amos Lapp, Paul Burdett, Walter Fuchs, Ray Gerber, Don Strand and Gordon Brinkworth.

"The Birth of a Clinic" started with fellow superintendents getting together and sharing ideas; they would meet either at the Glen Oak Gun Club or in Frank Dinelli's rustic and nostalgic old office at Northmoor Country Club. Their first effort to formalize these meetings came on December 17-18, 1953. The first clinic was held at Medinah Country Club; superintendent Ray Davis was host and 50 hearty souls attended. They met in the directors' room with Bob Williams as chairman of the proceedings; the program included Dr. R. Voight (director of the University of Illinois' Drug and Horticulture Experiment Station), who had turf plots at the Morton Arboretum, and Dr. Klomparens, who brought in microscopes to be used for plant disease identification, as well as Dr. Bill Daniels, a professor at Purdue University, and Dr. James Watson from the Toro Company, which had helped in developing a chemical application chart for use in disease control.

The clinic came out of the gate at a turtle's pace because it was difficult to obtain speakers. Many superintendents lacked the confidence to stand up and speak. The first 10 years, however, did establish the need for this clinic, with the idea of educating fellow superintendents and bringing new ideas to the forefront. The University of Illinois' College of Pharmacy held the clinic for two years; it then moved to Olympia Fields Country Club for the next eight years. By the 10th clinic, attendance had climbed to 116 people. In 1964, the clinic moved back to Medinah C.C., and in 1966, celebrities began speaking at

(continued on page 6)

the clinic. In 1974, the clinic became a one-day affair; I suppose the Education Committee was getting tired of the two-day events!

Here is a look back at the 25th Annual Midwest Turf Clinic, held at Medinah C.C. on November 30, 1977. The theme was "Knowledge Through Testing" and the fee was \$25.

Did you notice how long the afternoon session went and how a banquet with a guest speaker followed?

This year's theme is "Future: The State of the Art." I figure that in the next six to seven years, technology will be bringing the turf industry to a different level. I have lined up Greg Martin, architect, to talk about golf course design in light of the economic times. We are trying to get a superintendent from a well-known golf course. We'd like to see Dr. Al Turgeon back because he was here for the 25th clinic. Maybe we'll have a round-table format like last year with Oscar Miles sitting in one of the chairs. Rick Grant from Griffin Technologies will speak on moss and algae control; somebody from the University of Illinois will be on hand to discuss GPS. We'll have a guest speaker that is a local favorite.

I hope you enjoyed this short stroll down memory lane back to the start of the Midwest Turf Clinic, and that you will attend this year's clinic at Medinah C.C. on November 6.

Note: I don't have any information on the 34th and 35th clinics, held in 1986 and 1987. If anybody has information to share with me, I would be very appreciative. You can e-mail me at Scgaryhgc@aol.com. Thanks!



Wednesday, November 30th, 1977
Medinah Country Club

Morning

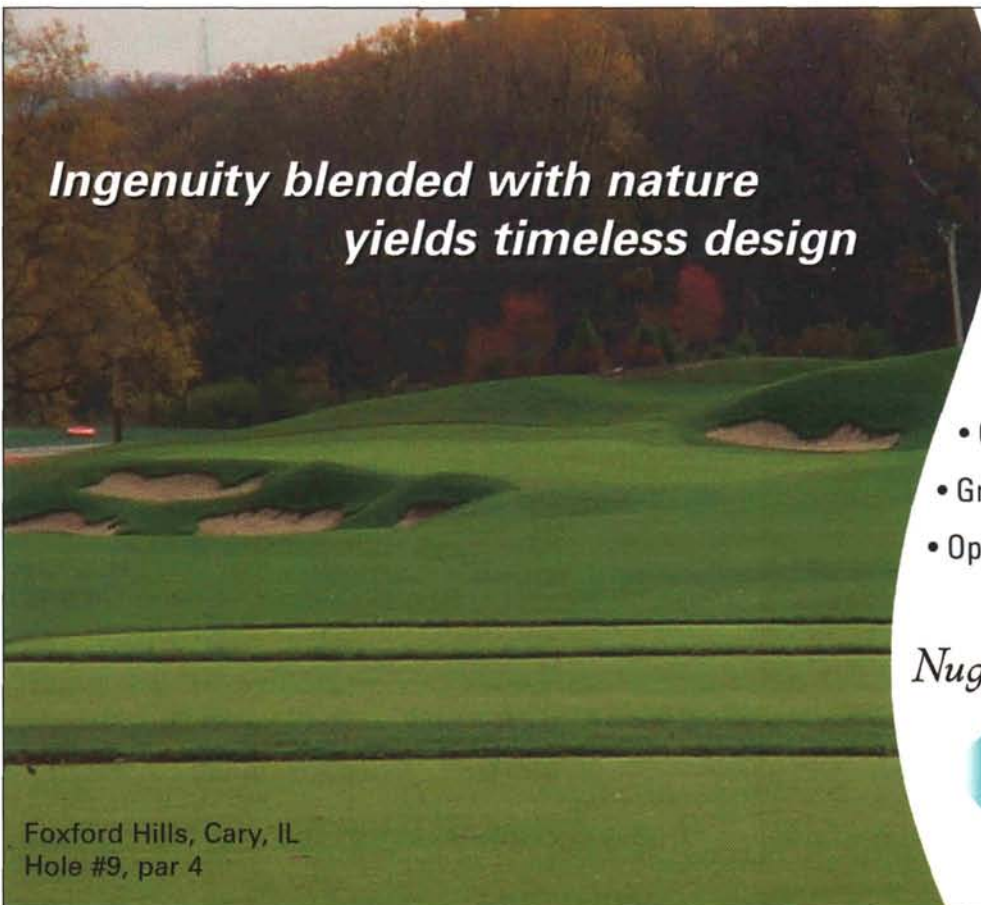
- 8:30 Registration . . . Howard Baerwald
- 9:00 Call to Order . . . MAGCS President, Joseph Grenko
- 9:10 Welcome Host Superintendent . . . John Jackman

"Theme" Knowledge Through Testing

- Morning Moderator . . . Carl Schwartzkopf
- 9:15 Thatch Development . . . Dr. Al Turgeon
Questions
- 10:00 Dutch Elm Disease Control . . . Wolfgang Mueller
Questions
- 10:20 New Fungicide Combinations . . . Danny Wyatt
Questions
- 10:40 Break
- 11:00 PBCB-26019 Test . . . Bruce Williams
Questions
- 11:20 Cold Weather Pythium . . . Dr. John Saladini
Questions
- 12:00 Lunch

Afternoon Moderator . . . Dr. John Street

- 1:15 Motivation . . . Mr. Larry Aniballi
- 2:00 Techniques in Controlling *Poa annua* During
This Season's Heat . . . Mike Nass
Questions
- 2:20 Treating Greens with no Air Circulation . . .
James Johns
Questions
- 2:40 Crew Classification . . . Timothy Kelly
Questions
- 3:00 Break
- 3:20 Problems with Oaks . . . Dick Schroeder
Questions
- 3:40 Turf Insect Problems This Season . . .
Panel: Roger LaRochelle, Dennis Fulton,
Norm Meyer, Carl Langrebe
Questions
- 4:00 Converting Bluegrass Fairways to Bentgrass . . .
Peter Leuzinger
Questions
- 4:20 A Successful New Concept in Fairway Turf
Renovation—Using Perennial Ryegrass to
Improve Turf Quality . . . Paul Voykin
Questions
- 4:40 Summary and Close . . . Dr. John Street
- 5:00 Cocktail Hour
- 6:30 Banquet, Guest Speaker . . . Bob Parsons, Punter,
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Dave Radaj -N-



The Radaj family: Dave and wife Tracy with daughter Kathryn and son Jack.



On August 26, the Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents will be treated to a great day of golf with our host Dave Radaj, CGCS at Green Acres Country Club in Northbrook. Having started there in 2000, Dave is now in his third season at Green Acres. Dave is originally from Greendale, Wisconsin, so the Green Acres position appealed to him since he would be a little closer to family.

Prior to Green Acres, Dave held the head position at the Wakonda Club in Des Moines, Iowa. Much of what he has accomplished in his career he attributes in part to working under longtime Medinah golf course superintendent, Danny Quast. Dave was the course superintendent on Course No. 1 at Medinah for two years and on Course No. 3 for his last year.

Green Acres is a spectacular golf course, with every square foot of the property manicured to perfection.

Dave initially became interested in the golf management profession through his brother-in-law, who was the manager at Blue Mound Golf and Country Club in Wauwatosa, Wisconsin. Dave's brother-in-law arranged for him the opportunity to work on the grounds staff one summer, where he quickly discovered his passion for the golf maintenance industry. Upon graduating from high school, Dave entered the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and returned to Blue Mound the following summer. It was during that second season that Dave became hooked. He moved to Michigan, establishing residency, and worked on the grounds staff for Kurt Thuemmel at Walnut Hills Country Club in Lansing. Dave graduated in 1993 from Michigan State University and began his career working in Illinois.

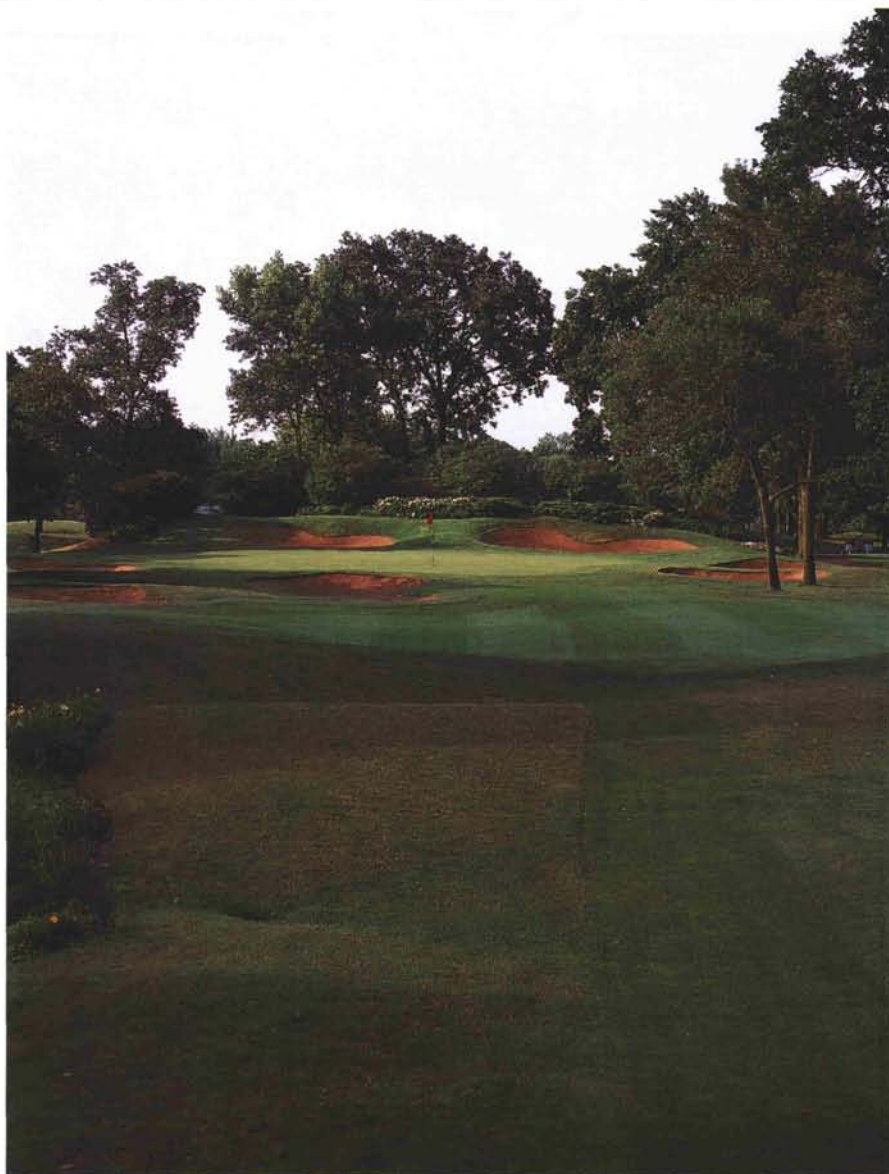
Green Acres is a spectacular golf course, with every square foot of the property manicured to perfection. The tree-lined fairways and breathtaking gardens offer a serene atmosphere to escape from the hectic world and enjoy a round of golf. Although 6,714 yards from the tips is not lengthy by today's standards, there are plenty of ways to get in trouble on this course, including some 2,300 trees and nine ponds, as well as a spectacular waterfall by the clubhouse. The small greens have subtle undulations and are well-guarded by bunkers. With green speed that can be described as slippery, the best option is to play the ball below the hole.

(continued on page 10)

Green Acres is also a great walking course. In fact, of the 12,000 rounds played annually, 8,000 of them are walking rounds. Encompassing 140 acres, the course was originally designed by none other than A.W. Tillinghast and redesigned later by Roger Packard. Presently, the club is working with golf course architect Roger Rulewich on developing a master plan. This will be the last season for the no. 2 green, as it will be rebuilt this fall. When we play the course, we will see soil stockpiled near the existing green in preparation for the project. The present green is being rebuilt because the membership is not fond of the shape and mounding.

Dave has been busy since his arrival at Green Acres. During his first season, he installed a new irrigation system and pump house. The system has more than 1,400 heads that offer the ability to water every area of the golf course with great flexibility. The bunkers have been reworked since his arrival. Utilizing different sand-retention products, Dave and his staff have perfected the art of flashed sand with limited washouts. The bunkers add a strong complement to the rest of the layout. Under Dave's direction is a staff of 22 headed up by his two assistants, Jeff Everson and Jason Higgins. Dave attained professional certification from the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America this past April.

Dave and his wife Tracy reside in Gurnee with their two children, Kathryn, who is two-and-a-half, and her new baby brother, Jack. Dave's interests beyond golf are playing with his children and taking family cruises in his recently acquired 1971 Buick Skylark convertible. Don't bother asking Dave what he thinks the Bears will do this year; his only concern is that the Packers win two games by beating the Bears twice.



Hole no. 6, a par 3.



Hole no. 16, a par 3.

Photos by Jim Trzinski.