

West Turf Clinic

The day began with the MAGCS Annual Meeting, during which several checks were passed around to ensure a strong future for our industry. Holly Gilmour of J.W. Turf donated a check for \$2,500 to the John Buck Scholarship fund, which was conceived to commemorate John while allowing a child of an MAGCS member to pursue a college education. John Meyer of Simplot Partners presented a generous check in the amount of \$4,750 to the MAGCS Scholarship Fund; these proceeds were generated from their Daconil early-order program set up at last year's NCTE. A whopping 950 cases were booked at that time, and Simplot donated \$5 per case to this worthy cause. Thank you, thank you, THANK YOU for your generous support of our children's futures, guys.

Not to be outdone, the MAGCS chimed in with its own donation—to the CDGA turf research program—for \$5,000. Dr. Randy Kane graciously accepted the check, noting that there WILL be a Green Seminar in March that will include participation from the USGA Green Section. Look for news and specifics on this in upcoming issues. In other Annual Meeting news, past president Brian Bossert, CGCS noted that he was appointed a member of the Nominating Committee for the Illinois PGA Hall of Fame (in which but two of our colleagues are honored—Ray Gerber and Bob Williams). Brian asks that anyone with ideas on future nominees for this coveted place in Illinois golf history please contact him at Bryn Mawr Country Club.

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Jon Jennings and Erwin McKone show off their Gerber and Opperman hardware.



Dr. Al Turgeon was all smiles when his PowerPoint presentation finally loaded.



Dr. Tom Fermanian—jack of all trades—was both speaker AND audio/video technician.

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D.B.A. Bill Boyd

On to the business of the day—the education portion. Scott Witte, CGCS served as our morning moderator, and after a few misguided attempts at humor began by introducing our first speaker—Greg Martin of Martin Design Partnership—who gave an insightful presentation on the “State of the Art—Golf Course Architecture.” The theme of Greg’s talk centered on an issue that will soon affect all of us in the Green Industry (if it has not already)—the transformation of golf as a game to golf as a business, and the dangers involved in this transformation. To paraphrase, it is a snowball effect whereby owners feel the need to market something with “WOW,”

forcing architects to design something with “WOW,” forcing superintendents to maintain something with “WOW,” forcing golfers to cough up big-time dough to play something with “WOW.” Unfortunately, “WOW” doesn’t necessarily translate to enjoyable golf, nor does it appeal to the average golfer who can’t afford “WOW,” which means money stops entering the cash registers of courses with “WOW,” which means superintendents must maintain “WOW” on “HOHUM” budgets, which means owners must go broke, leading them to say, “Hmmm—I’m broke and now I must sell my golf course. Wow.” I hope this was not too technical a summary of Greg’s presentation . . .



Tim Johnson gave a very informative talk from the technician's point of view.



Mike Mumper presents Tom Lively with the coveted “host gift.”

Next on the agenda was Dr. Al Turgeon, making a triumphant return to the Clinic after a 23-year absence. Dr. Turgeon gave a very informative report on “Competition Between Bentgrasses and Annual Bluegrasses,” leaving those of us saddled with maintaining bent/*Poa* turf a ray of hope for the elimination of *Poa annua* from our playing surfaces (although I myself am still skeptical about my chances of doing so). Following Dr. Turgeon was Bill Middleton of Emerald Isle, who managed to gain free air time in describing the benefits of using their brand of seaweed (as opposed to the countless other brands of seaweed)

on turfgrass while educating us on “What Is a True Foliar.” Dave Ward, superintendent of Olympia Fields Country Club, followed with “U.S. Open Preparation,” going into detail about the extensive steps he and his staff (most of whom were in attendance) have taken to host next year’s big event. Seems Dave has done this before, and the result is always the same—I wouldn’t want any part of that nightmare! What Olympia Fields has accomplished in the past several years would take most courses 100 years to complete.



While Dudley and Ray Schmitz count votes and pregnant chads and such, Ed Braunsky is stumped trying to get the eraser to write.

After Dave’s classy move in having all his assistant superintendents stand and be recognized, the program shifted to the presentation of the Ray Gerber Editorial Award and the inaugural presentation of the Fred D. Opperman Editorial Award. The “Gerber,” which recognizes the superintendent whose article first published in *On Course* magazine is deemed to be best by a panel of five esteemed judges, went to Jonathan Jennings, CGCS of Chicago Golf Club for his article, “Get Pumped! Case Studies in Pump Station Replacement.” The “Opperman,” which made its debut this year, recognizes the author of the best article written by a non-superintendent

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member, and was won by Erwin McKone of River Forest Country Club for his article titled "Mabel's Magic." Congratulations to both Jon and Erwin for their achievements, and thanks for your invaluable contributions to our magazine. Remember that you, too, can have one of those pretty plaques—all you need to do is write an article (oh, yeah, and of course, win).

After lunch, afternoon moderator Jon Jennings (still beaming from his big moment) introduced Gene Wojciechowski, the senior editor of *ESPN The Magazine*, who entertained us with his many anecdotes on life as a sports reporter. Most memorable was Gene's recollection of meeting Robert Trent Jones, Sr. after an uninspired round of golf on Spyglass Hill. Gene: "Mr. Jones, that course kicked my butt." Mr. Jones: "Perhaps you're not a very adept golfer." Gene goes on to say he'd never before rooted for someone to have a brain aneurysm until then. Another ditty from Gene that we can all take to heart came while describing Lou Holtz's analogy regarding his team's effort in practice: "Much like the kamikaze pilots who returned from their mission, they were interested but not committed." Good stuff, that.

Next up was Dr. T. Don Taylor of Griffin LLC who enlightened us with "New Technologies for Moss and Algae Control." Again, the line between unbiased information and an outright sales pitch may have been crossed here, but anyone with an initial for a first name is worth listening to. Dr. Tom Fermanian then gave a high-tech talk on the high-tech future of "Precision Turfgrass Management—What Data Should Be Collected." Did I mention it was high-tech? Seriously, though, the research that's being conducted at universities is truly mind-boggling in its complexity; but it is coming, and we thank Tom for opening our eyes to the future of our industry. Rounding out the program was Tim Johnson, equipment technician at Royal Fox C.C. and president of TETA (Turf Equipment Technicians Association). Tim filled us in on "What's New on the Market," which included biodiesel fuel alternatives, small-engine emissions control and new golf cart technology, to name a few items of interest. Check out TETA's Web site at Tetaonline.org for more information.

Following the program, the annual election of officers was held. Ed Fischer, with the assistance of Ray Schmitz, Ed Braunsky and Dudley

Dr. Turgeon gave a very informative report on "Competition Between Bentgrasses and Annual Blue-grasses," leaving those of us saddled with maintaining bent/Poa turf a ray of hope for the elimination of Poa annua from our playing surfaces . . .



The passing of the gavel from Luke Strojny to new president Kevin DeRoo . . .



So Kevin just gives one "right back atcha, Luke."

Smith, conducted the process, and the results are now official. Your new Board of Directors for 2003 is as follows: Kevin DeRoo, president; Fred Behnke, vice president; Phil Zeinert, secretary/treasurer. Joining incumbent directors Tim Anderson, Dave Braasch, Luke Cella and Gary Hearn (who was re-elected) are Scott Speiden of Itasca C.C. and Tony Kalina of Prairie Landing G.C. Joining the group is Dave Armentout of TPEC, who gets to fill the very large shoes of Paul Yerkes as the commercial advisory representative and will tackle the job of arranging the hospitality suite in Atlanta (to be at the Atlanta Marriott Marquis Hotel). Congratulations to all, and best of luck in keeping this ship sailing straight and smooth.

MAGCS thanks all of those involved in making the 50th Annual Midwest Turf Clinic a success, including Gary Hearn and the Education Committee, Tom Lively and the staff at Medinah C.C., our education speakers and of course, all who attended. Thanks also to Brian Bossert, who is leaving the Board after seemingly decades of service. Brian put a new spin on leaving the Board by not only accepting his parting gift (a \$300 gift certificate from Fleet Feet Shoes), but by presenting gifts to all MAGCS members as a token of thanks. Class move, Brian. See you all next year.



On Course With the President (continued from page 3)

and we will do everything in our power to make it happen.

At each MAGCS meeting, Gary Hearn and his Education Committee had the not-so-enviable task of providing an educational topic and speaker. A considerable amount of time and energy goes into lining up educational speakers to discuss their respective fields of expertise. The last survey showed the Board that more than 60% of the membership wants an educational session at each meeting, and yet attendance is far less than that. I would hope that going forward, our membership will give these speakers the time and courtesy of their attention that they so richly deserve.

We see the fruits of the Editorial Committee's labor each and every month with another fantastic issue of *On Course*, a publication that we as an Association should all be very proud of. The professional work of Cathy Miles Ralston, John Gurke, Dave Braasch and the Editorial Committee goes without saying. But I would be remiss if I did not mention our monthly advertisers. Frankly, without them, this magazine does not happen. I do hope the membership realizes this and helps support those who help support us. Since the days of *the Bull Sheet*, the search for member-written articles continues to be an ongoing hurdle for this committee to jump. I urge everyone to take the time during this off-season and write. Just imagine if every member wrote just one article! I can guarantee the feeling of accomplishment you get out of it will far surpass the effort you put into it. Besides, being published is a really cool thing.

*We know only this:
participation is
the key to our
success. And no
participation is too
great, or too small.*

The Long-Range Planning Committee and its chair, Luke Cella, have just completed a plan that has been adopted by the Board. This plan mainly calls for updating SOPs for each committee, appointing a co-chairperson for those committees with a greater workload, the creation of exit summary forms for each committee chair, and ways to increase membership involvement on committees. The purpose of these changes is simply to enhance the continuity between changing boards, chairpersons and committee members.

The direction that we as Association are heading is simple as well: forward. It is my intention and challenge to keep us on that path. I am as proud as can be to be president of this Association, and I know we as a Board are only as good as the membership we represent. We know only this: participation is the key to our success. And no participation is too great, or too small. Have a wonderful holiday season.



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The winner sees an answer for every problem.
The loser sees a problem in every answer.

The winner sees a green near every sand trap.
The loser sees a sand trap near every green.

The winner says, "It may be difficult, but it's possible."
The loser says, "It may be possible, but it's too difficult."

Just for today, make up your mind to be happy—
no matter what. **Just do it!** And then do it again
tomorrow, and the next day, and the next day . . .



BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

At its meeting on October 23, the MAGCS Board of Directors:

- Approved expenses for the month of September in the amount of \$26,785.90.
- Voted to financially support the campaign of MAGCS past president Robert Maibusch, CGCS, MG for the position of secretary/treasurer of GCSAA in an amount not to exceed \$500.
- Discussed that George Minnis and our Internet guy, Ken at Mynex, will enable our Web site, magcs.org, to support a roster of registrants for our monthly meetings so members can check on their registration status and/or see who else is going to attend.
- Noted that the MAGCS Hospitality Room in Atlanta is reserved at the Marriott Marquis Hotel (GCSAA headquarters hotel), courtesy of Paul Yerkes. A letter to potential sponsors requesting donations for the Hospitality Room will be going out shortly. The BOD appreciates the support of our sponsors without whom we would be unable to put on the kind of event to which we have become accustomed.
- Extended its appreciation to Gary Hearn for hosting the annual scholarship outing at Salt Creek Golf Course. Every participant got a prize and went home with a warm and fuzzy feeling for contributing to the scholarship fund (or was it the beer?).
- Extended its appreciation to Brian Bossert, CGCS, for hosting the Annual Fall Dinner Dance at Bryn Mawr Country Club. This venue was a reprise of last year's 75th-anniversary event and the evening was exceptional.
- Discussed the fact that several comments were received questioning the scientific accuracy of a recent article published in *On Course* on the use

of barley straw bales to clarify pond water. The BOD is in agreement with the following statement:

- *On Course* makes no claim to be a scientific journal and serves a valuable purpose in providing information or "food for thought" to our membership. While care has to be exercised to avoid the perception of a commercial message being presented, opposing views are not only welcomed but also encouraged. Let those who disagree with the message presented submit a rebuttal.

- Encouraged the Editorial Committee to approach the research community for articles for *On Course*. The MAGCS makes significant contributions to turfgrass research and the BOD agreed that our friends conducting this research should be happy to provide interesting copy for our magazine.




MIDWEST PERSONALITIES



Name: **Chuck Anfield**, Channahon Park District/
Heritage Bluffs G.C., five years
Job title: **Golf Grounds Operations Manager**
Date of birth: **May 9, 1960**
Place of birth: **Chicago Heights, IL**
Current residence: **Channahon, IL**
Spouse: **Ann Marie**, five years
Children: **Daniel**, age 4, **Walker**, age 2
MAGCS member since: **1993**
College/degree: **B.A. from Northland College, B.S.
from Oregon State University**
My favorite childhood memory is: **Playing whiffle ball
all day, every day.**
My personal hero: **My father.**
My professional mentors: **John Alexander,
superintendent at Waverly C.C.**

Favorite actor: **George Clooney**
Favorite musical performer: **Neil Young**
Favorite "pigout" food: **Pizza**
Favorite sports team: **Beavers**
Favorite pro golfer: **Nick Price**
My handicap index: **5**
My favorite place to play golf is: **Anywhere free**
My best/most memorable round ever: **St. Andrews,
Scotland. I was able to play there with my father
and my friend John Alexander. It was a beautiful
autumn day in October.**
The most interesting/exotic place I've ever traveled:
Tijuana, Mexico
The book I've been recommending lately: **Anything
about the Civil War.**
Favorite color: **Blue**
In my spare time, I enjoy: **Golf, bicycling, boating**
Three words that describe me: **Love to win**
What I enjoy most about my job: **When I get
to play golf.**
What I dislike about my job: **When I don't get
to play golf.**
I'm a Midwest member because: **I enjoy the
camaraderie and networking opportunities.**





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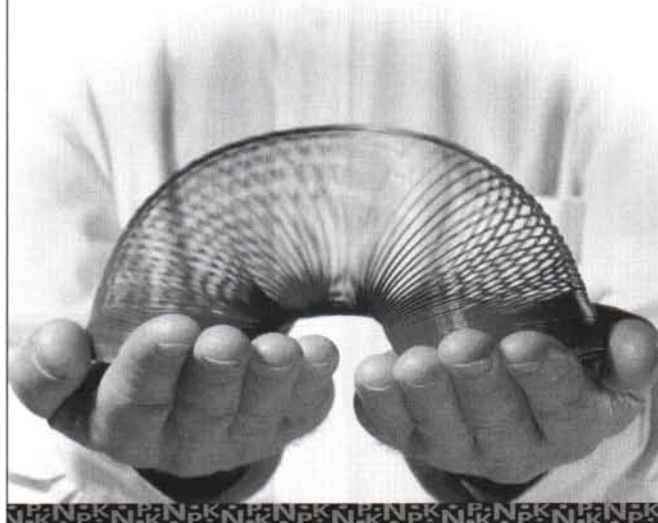
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North Central Turfgrass Exposition (NCTE) Celebrates Its 19th Year As “Must-Attend” Event For Superintendents

Marking its 19th year as the foremost turfgrass conference and exposition in the Midwest, the NCTE will be held again the week after Thanksgiving on Tuesday and Wednesday, December 3-4 at the Pheasant Run Conference and Mega Center, St. Charles, IL.

Traditionally, the NCTE attracts more than 1,500 turf professionals. Golf course superintendents lead the list, in addition to an ever-growing number of landscape contractors, lawn-care operators, sports-turf managers, municipal and park personnel.

This year's event will feature 32 seminars and 11 workshops that will earn GCSAA continuing education credit for full-registration attendees.

The annual ITF awards luncheon will be a dinner this year on Tuesday evening, December 3. One of the highlights of the evening will be a multimedia presentation on the progress of the “living turfgrass laboratory” and three-hole course established at Midwest Golf House in Lemont, IL.

In addition to a strong educational program, this year's exposition will again offer trade-show attendees the opportunity to see and visit with the leading manufacturers, suppliers and distributors of turfgrass equipment, supplies and services.

The 40,000-square-foot Pheasant Run Mega Center affords exhibitors a well-lighted, fully carpeted and column-free show floor. The easy-in and easy-out facilities make the NCTE an ideal choice for companies wishing to reach decision-makers in the green industry market. Exhibitors consistently comment that they find the NCTE an ideal venue to meet with key customers and prospective customers to discuss their needs, write significant new orders

and schedule follow-up appointments for the upcoming season.

A Little History

An annual conference for turfgrass professionals has been cosponsored by the Illinois Turfgrass Foundation (ITF) since the early 1960s. Until 1980, the Illinois Turfgrass Conference was held on the University of Illinois campus in Champaign-Urbana, IL. This was generally one to one-and-a-half days of educational seminars without a trade show.

In 1980, the conference was moved to Springfield, IL and a small trade show was added. The conference was again held in Springfield in 1981 with a moderate drop in attendance, but with a similar trade show and revenue generation. Attendance by turfgrass professionals was similar for both years to that experienced in Champaign-Urbana.

After the 1981 conference, a number of trade-show vendors discussed with Dr. Tom Fermanian the overlap in timing and audiences among a number of state turfgrass meetings. He suggested that if many of these meetings could be organized into a regional conference, it would attract greater attendance from both turf professionals and vendors. This concept established the North Central Turfgrass Exposition (NCTE), which replaced the Illinois Turfgrass Conference.

The NCTE was first held in November 1982 at the Arlington Heights Hilton Hotel, Arlington Heights, IL. As an umbrella organization, it became the site for simultaneous meetings of six organizations. The ITF, Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents, Central Illinois Golf Course Superintendents Association,

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The NCTE trade show floor.

Northwest Illinois Golf Course Superintendents Association, Illinois Lawncare Applicators Association and the USGA Green Section held their annual meeting over the two-and-a-half-day period. It was felt that this organization would allow for the sharing of speakers and economize on the time required for conference organization. Since only the Illinois Turfgrass Conference had previously included a trade show, it was also an opportunity for the other organizations to partake of this component.

The 1982 NCTE was very successful in increasing both attendance and overall revenue for the ITF. The NCTE was held in the Chicagoland area for the following two years with increased attendance and revenue each year. There was, however, increasing desire from turf professionals in the southern half of the state to again hold the NCTE in a more central location. In 1985, the NCTE moved to Peoria with increased revenue but a drop in attendance. It was decided to generally hold the NCTE in a northern Illinois location, but to move it to a central Illinois location once every five years.

Attendance and revenue rose dramatically as the NCTE returned to the Chicagoland area. In 1987, the conference was moved to the Pheasant Run Convention Center in St. Charles, IL, where it is still currently held each year. The NCTE did return to Springfield at the Prairieland Con-



Pheasant Run offers an easy-in, easy-out show floor for NCTE exhibitors.

vention Center in 1990. With a drop in attendance, it was decided to return to Pheasant Run, where it has been held ever since.


Beginning in 1986, many of the organizations that cosponsored the NCTE felt they were losing their identity in the large joint exposition. Today, all of the founding organizations hold their own annual educational meetings, but still generously support the NCTE.

The ITF has renewed its contract with Pheasant Run for an additional three years following this year's event. Attendees can look forward to marking their calendars for 2003, 2004 and 2005 as the NCTE continues to take place the week after the Thanksgiving holiday. Pheasant Run has invested in a long-term program of facilities remodeling including both hotel and meeting rooms.

The NCTE Conference and Trade Show committees meet each

spring to begin making plans for speakers and topics for the next event. If you are interested in becoming a member of one these important ITF committees, contact Jack Lagerhausen, ITF executive director, for more information.

NCTE is the major revenue-producing source for ITF's program of funding its eight turfgrass research scientists at the University of Illinois and Southern Illinois University. The Foundation's level of research support for 2002 is anticipated to be more than \$130,000.

Your attendance and support of the NCTE is vital to the ITF's continuing commitment to financially support turfgrass research and education in Illinois. 



Historically, the NCTE's calling card has been its consistently outstanding education offering for the region's golf course superintendents and other green industry professionals.