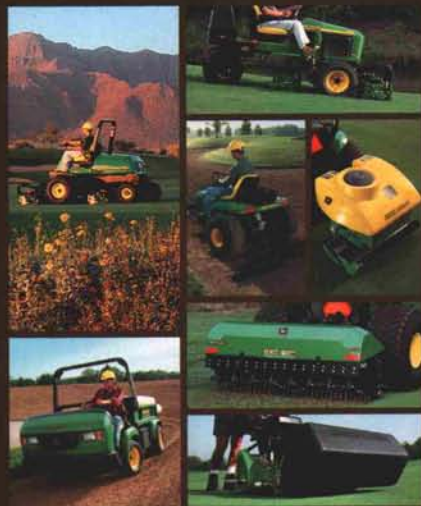


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Dave Radaj; Team #6: Don Ferreri, Rick Wilson, Bob Lively and Tom Lively; Team #7: Pete Leuzinger, Don Altman, Dave Schlagetter and Jim Knulty; Team #8: Dave Arden, Paul Schaefer, Pat McDonagh and Ronnie Newman; Team #9: Scott Klingberg, Dan Sterr and Richard Thompson; and Team #10: Steven Messerli, Daniel Pretzel, Scott Witte and Brad Legnaioli.

Once again the MAGCS made a fine showing, with the following highlights: 1st Place, Net Point Division—Team #9; 2nd Place, Net Point Division—Team #4; 7th Place, Gross Point Division—Team #2; 8th Place, Gross Point Division—Team #1.

Also, in individual competition, the following MAGCS members stood out: **Paul Bastron**—9th place in 2nd Flight Gross Division; **Bob Lively**—1st place in 4th Flight Gross Division; **Richard Thompson**—2nd place in 4th Flight Gross Division; **Steve Van Acker**—2nd place in 5th Flight Gross Division; **Scott Klingberg**—3rd place in 6th Flight Gross Division; **Ed**

Tod Hoppman Accorded CGCS Designation

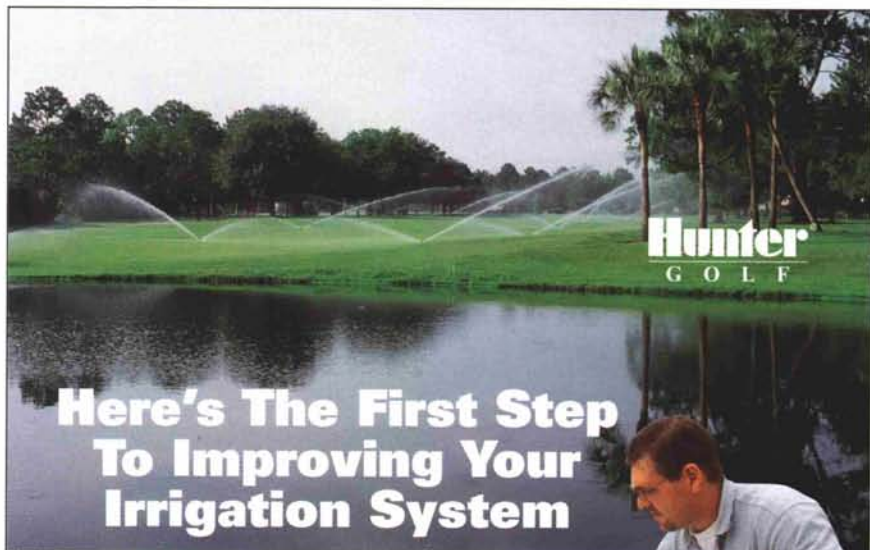
At its annual meeting in February, the GCSAA held a certification luncheon to recognize the newly certified and recertified superintendents. During the invocation, Dave Downing announced that Tod Hoppman had been posthumously granted the distinction of Certified Golf Course Superintendent. Tod had completed all the requirements for certification with the exception of the final golf course interview prior to his tragic accident and untimely death. Tod was a great friend to many of the superintendents in the Chicago area and a true professional in the industry. —*Jim Shone, Syngenta*

Fischer—4th place in Senior I Flight Gross Division; **Tim Davis**—8th place in Senior I Gross Division. Congratulations everyone on another great championship!

.....
MAGCS sends its heartfelt condolences to Juanita Ebel and all of the many friends and family of **John Ebel**, who passed away on January 26 at his home in Sun City, AZ. John was not only a frequent contributor to this magazine during his retirement, but also a dedicated member and friend of the MAGCS throughout his illustrious career in these parts. John served our Association on every level that was available, including as our president in 1963. We've all heard how one could

"eat off the floors" of the shop at Barrington Hills Country Club—a testament to the way John Ebel did business during his long tenure there. From personal experience, I've found this to be true, and I'm sure many a fine meal was consumed without the hassle of plates and such off those very floors. I would personally like to thank John for the many kind words he offered me over the years, and to wish him peace in his new place. Knowing John and his strong ties to the Lord, it's a very nice place, indeed.

.....
A nice article appeared in the November/December issue of *Superintendent* (the supplement to *Turf* magazine) featuring **Kerry**



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Satterwhite and his environmental plan for the golf courses he oversees as superintendent of golf course maintenance for the Bloomington, IL Parks and Recreation Department. Kerry's dedication to the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Golf Courses and to our environment in general are praiseworthy, and MAGCS appreciates the great efforts he goes to on behalf of our profession.

Hey everyone with new USGA greens: You now can depreciate them! A big thanks to the IRS for making life so much easier . . .

Congratulations to **Greg Oltman** of GRO Horticultural Enterprises, Inc. on receiving the Illinois Landscape Contractors Association's Man of the Year Award at the Mid-Am show in January.

Hey, all you MAGCS Web site users: The Message Board as we've come to know it will soon be no more. This is a good thing—it has gotten much better! Next time you log on to the site (magcs.org), go to Members Area, and then New Message Board. This will

allow you to register for your own screen name and password, and get you into the sleek, ultra-modern and VERY simple-to-use New Message Board. It sounds much more difficult than it is—GO THERE AND DO IT. **Paul Voykin**—give me a call and I'll talk you through it . . .

The Illinois Turfgrass Foundation (ITF) is getting a boost from Reinder's, Inc. Through 2002, for each case of Daconil and/or Heritage products purchased, Reinder's will donate \$5 to the ITF general fund. Scott Adams and Bruce Schweiger, Reinder's Illinois sales reps, can tell you more about this new fundraising partnership with ITF.

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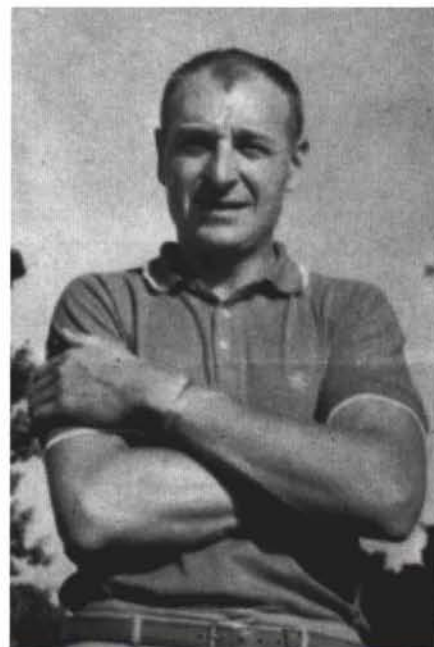
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The Legacy of John Ebel, 1927-2002

John Ebel was born in Barrington, IL on July 20, 1927 and lived his whole life there until moving to Sun City West, AZ in 1996. He served in the Army Air Corp at Shepherd Field in Wichita Falls, TX from 1945-1947. After attending the University of Illinois Extension in Elgin, he was the golf course superintendent for 22 years at Barrington's Biltmore C.C. and another 22 years at Barrington Hills C.C. John was a 45-year member of GCSAA and a past president of the MAGCS (1963) and CAGCS (1974-75). In the early 1980s, he founded the GCSAA Prayer Breakfast, an event that graces the annual conference and show to this day.



John as he appeared in 1961.

John and his wife of 52 years, Juanita, raised two daughters, Wendy and Cathy, and enjoyed four grandchildren. His hobbies included landscaping, golf, hunting, fishing, bocce ball and bowling. Just prior to Thanksgiving 2001, he was diagnosed with an inoperable brain tumor. Less than a week before his passing, he joined Crown of Life Lutheran Church.

John Ebel passed away on January 26. A memorial service and inurnment will take place in Barrington this spring. The following are reflections and memories shared by several MAGCS members.

A few things come to mind when I think of John Ebel. The immaculate shop, complete with shiny floor, tool board and painted rake handles is a given. Having worked for John for a year, I can also add that he was a very fair and considerate employer. He knew that the people who worked for him were more important than the condition of the course that he might be judged by. You could count on his word as a promise. And what a smile; it did literally seem to go ear-to-ear.

*... what John
exemplified most
to me was the joy
he found in
serving the Lord.*

—Brian Bossert

However, what John exemplified most to me was the joy he found in serving the Lord. Because of this, John's life was no mere routine. He didn't root for God from the sidelines, but participated fully in being a steward of the hope, grace and forgiveness that is available through Christ. He took risks (and a little mocking I suspect) to pass along the word of God; risks that included putting Him front and center, speaking up and speaking truth. If you could let in a little of what he asked or suggested, you might very well be on your way to a changed life. And he didn't do it to earn credit with God, win praise from his fellows or to be labeled a "religious man;" he simply found his place in serving the Lord. It might be surprising to know that this was not always John's top priority.

Juanita, his wife, recently recounted a story John told me years ago. She made it clear to John that she was going to follow the Lord and she would support him in any manner he chose to live his life. John began living out his "Life

Verse” soon afterward. Taken from Joshua 24:15, “. . . choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your forefathers served beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. **But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord!**”

—Brian Bossert,
Bryn Mawr C.C.

John was one of those friends that you cherish in life. He was all giving and caring. You never once saw John that he didn't have that huge smile and welcome written all across his face. Then he shook your hand and you knew it was shook when you grabbed his “mitt.” An example of his caring was how he, after visiting the Grand Canyon and being taken on a tour of it by my son—who at the time was with the helicopter crew and a wildfire fighter—kept a picture of Todd on his refrigerator to pray to keep him safe. That was John. If you had an adversity in life, you would have received a phone call from John and follow-up calls to see how you were doing.

Then there was John, who was known all over the Chicagoland area for having the cleanest shop of anyone. The Chicagoland Superintendents Association used to have their January/February meetings at the Barrington C.C. shop and we all came away wondering how a person could keep his shop and equipment so neat and clean. “A place for everything and everything in its place” was his motto.

John was also instrumental in getting the Prayer Breakfast established at the annual GCSAA Conference. At first, it was just a get-together for breakfast and prayer spread by word of mouth. Then speakers were brought in and the crowds got larger. Finally, the GCSAA got involved by putting it on the official program and a place and time slot were allotted.

Rest in peace, John. Enjoy those greener pastures where there are no Stimpeters.

—Fred Opperman, Retired



Photo courtesy of Fred Opperman

Recently, John and Juanita Ebel enjoyed the splendor of the Grand Canyon.

There never will be a Chicagoland Superintendents Association monthly meeting, ever again, as there used to be when John Ebel hosted the December meeting at Barrington Hills C.C. The cement floor was painted and WAXED. Every hand tool was mounted on a freshly painted wall with its outline painted behind it. There was not one speck of dust on ANYTHING; even the tractor tires were brightly painted. John was unique in many ways, but this meeting was totally one-of-a-kind. He was a credit to MAGCS at all times.

—Carl Hopphan,
Illinois Turfgrass Foundation

John Ebel will be remembered as a professional in every way. He was a neighbor and friend. I can honestly say he was one of the good ones—a great guy that anyone would be proud to call a friend. He surely will be missed by all of us that knew him. He always presented an attitude that was upbeat, which made him a delightful person to be around. John will be remembered dearly by many of us.

—Mike Bavier, Inverness C.C.

My first recollection of John Ebel goes back to 1987, when I first started calling on John as his new Jac Turf salesman. I remember walking into his shop and noticing how immaculate the shop appeared. From the tools organized on the pegboard to the cleanliness of the shop floor, I surmised this man was something special. Of course, I noticed a lot of “red” equipment also, but that wouldn't stop me from stopping by to see John a regular basis.

We became good friends and John was very open with me, as he was with everyone else, about sharing his faith. If I had to choose a Scripture that characterized John, it would be Romans 1:16, which says, “I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew then for the Gentile.” John truly believed this and was never bashful when it came to sharing and living out his faith. His faith prompted him to organize the first GCSAA Christian Prayer Breakfast in 1982. He later asked me to serve on its committee. I know that for John, it was a labor of love and certainly an event that John looked forward to every year.

(continued on page 36)

I know that everything John Ebel did, from maintaining his course and his shop to organizing the Prayer Breakfast to maturing in his marriage relationship, he did "as unto the Lord." He answered to a higher call than the one set by a green chairman. He did so, so that anyone would see something special in John and therefore give John an opportunity to share the "hope that he had within."

I'm sure that we will be honoring the memory of John Ebel at this year's GCSAA Prayer Breakfast. If we had the time, the entire program could be filled with testimonies of how many lives have been touched by John. But this would be contrary to what John would want us to do. His legacy was to submit his will to our Lord's, to give God the glory, all with the deepest sense of humility.

—Phil Taylor, *Textron*

I remember John as a man with his priorities in order. First, he was a servant of the Lord. Second, he served his family. Finally, he served his work.

In his service to God, he was the messenger for bringing the Prayer Breakfast to the GCSAA convention.

In his service to family, he was the loving husband to Juanita and the adored father to Wendy and Cathy. He was an inspiration to all those who knew him by his joyful demeanor and kind heart. He always had time to talk to me about almost any matter and never seemed to be inconvenienced by an unexpected visit.

At work, I remember that he was extremely well-organized, that his shop was immaculate, that every superintendent on the north side wanted his trade-in equipment because he rebuilt every piece every winter. John always did his homework, and was prepared for every project and endeavor that the club

undertook. He had the respect of the membership at Biltmore and Barrington Hills and the respect of every golf course superintendent who knew him.

Finally, he was my father's best friend. Our families shared times on vacations in Florida. I shared time with John pheasant-hunting in the fields of South Dakota and duck-hunting in a blind on the Illinois River. I will always remember the great times we had together.

—Jim Reed,
A.S. Altum & Associates

My first encounter with men like John Ebel occurred when I became assistant golf course superintendent at Medinah Country Club in 1962. When I went to my first MAGCS meetings, I would stand in awe of the leaders of our Association, like John, too afraid to approach them. John would always make a point to shake your hand and make you feel welcome. I respected him from the first moment I met him. He carried himself with a quiet dignity, without being standoffish. As a result, I really grew to know and love John over the 40 years of our friendship. He became my spiritual mentor, who could always pick me up when the difficulties of life got me down. He always showed me his strength with his smile and spiritual demeanor. I thank God for putting John in my life. He led me in my Christian walk and I pray I will see him again.

—Walter W. Fuchs, *Retired*



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~John Ebel~

Just after Thanksgiving, John Ebel was diagnosed with an inoperable brain tumor. In late January, Brian Bossert and I heard that John's condition was quickly deteriorating, and we made immediate plans to visit John at his home in Sun City, AZ. Two days after we made our arrangements, John Ebel passed away. By coincidence, John's funeral was scheduled for the same day that Brian and I had planned to see John. So we were able to attend the funeral, and I spoke these words during the service.

Brian Bossert and I wish to express to you—Juanita, Wendy, Cathy and the Ebel family—the condolences of the entire green-keeping community. We are here today as representatives of the thousands of men and women in our profession whose lives have been touched directly by John Ebel.

There was a profound depth of humility added to all his other virtues, and he was always one to deflect praise to his Lord, so I suspect that Mr. Ebel never told you exactly how good he was at green-keeping, or how much he was admired by his peers and associates.

But Mr. Ebel was indeed a very gifted man, and of the highest and most impeccable reputation—carpentry, plumbing, mechanical electrical engineering, agronomy, business administration, motivator, teacher, writer, speaker—these were just a few of the many talents that he gave to his profession, any one of which he might have easily specialized in. He used them all in greenkeeping, and the game is richer for it.

In addition to being a gifted craftsman, he was a great leader, serving as president of both the Midwest and Chicagoland Association of Golf Course Superintendents—one of just a few to have been entrusted with both positions of leadership.

It was many years ago now when he asked the directors of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America for a special room at our annual international convention. What Mr. Ebel and several others had on their hearts was a time of worship, prayer, testimonies and the gospel. And so was born the GCSAA Prayer Breakfast, which continues to this day. Who can account for the untold thousands of lives that have been influenced by this ministry? But Mr. Ebel would refuse any credit for its remarkable longevity. He would simply say that it was “God’s work.”


That was the way of John Ebel. Everything that most men call their own, he gave to the Lord. Some have stated that this was because John was a “religious man.” However, John might have graciously objected to this. A mere religious man mistakenly believes that God is somehow anxious for our attention, as if our devotion does something to shore up God’s self-image. But John Ebel was under no such delusion. John loved the Lord for joy. John simply delighted in God.

To those who have come here to celebrate John’s life, I will now ask and say what I think he would. Are you unwilling to yield everything to God? Do so today. Don’t put off the inevitable any longer. But do so for joy; not explicitly out of guilt for your sins. Do so for the

joy that He gives to those who yield to the salvation and Lordship of Jesus. John Ebel lived for this joy. You can, too.

When Jesus said good-bye to his disciples, he told them not to be sad. “I must go to prepare a place for you.” Let us today imagine the place that Jesus has prepared for John Ebel. What an honor is ours to have known one so conformed for such glory. But what a serious thing it is, too. Those of us who knew John Ebel are all the more accountable for our own souls.

The remarkable things that John Ebel accomplished were indeed the Lord’s work, but my how John showed us what God can do with a man who knows where true joy may be found. I wonder, can any man hope for a greater legacy than this?

And now to the Ebel family, from greenkeepers everywhere, please be comforted by these words that John Ebel always finished his letters with: “The peace of the Lord be with you.” 

Orlando, 2002—A Mic

By Mickey Mouse operation, I mean that in the best sense of the phrase. MAGCS members and GCSAA members from around the world always look especially forward to our International Golf Course Conference and Show when Orlando, Florida, is the venue. What a great way to treat the family to some old-fashioned fun while attending the conference! Orlando offers something for everyone, and it was great to see so many smiling faces at the end of the day, be it the result of a day at one of the wonderful parks or an evening indulging in some local hospitality.



Kevin DeRoo and Fred Behnke make sure every detail is taken care of with our banquet captain at the Rosen Centre, Zineb Capogreco.

The MAGCS Hospitality Suite was once again the talk of the show, with plenty of food, drink and conversation abounding on Wednesday and Thursday in the Rosen Centre. While taking a peek at some of our members enjoying themselves at the show (and after in some cases), remember that this is no small production to pull off. Paul Yerkes of Lesco is responsible for all the details that go into making the event a reality. Kevin DeRoo of Bartlett Hills Golf Course was the man on the scene, finalizing plans with the Rosen staff and making those spur-of-the-moment decisions (like keeping the bar open longer) on the spot—all with financial guru and notorious miser Fred Behnke of Mount Prospect Golf Club looking over his shoulder. Also remember that we enjoyed ourselves to the tune of \$33,000, with \$26,500 having been donated by our truly generous sponsors. These are the people who have made the best hospitality suite in Orlando what it is.



Your photographer demonstrates his prowess by shooting himself with Gene Thompson.



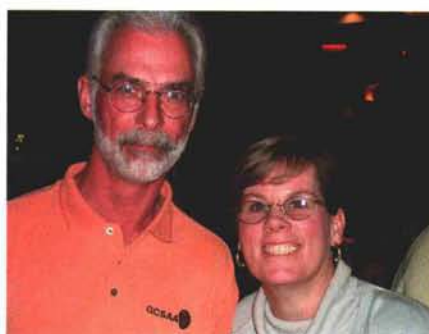
Dan Sterr, Dave Radaj and Don Ferreri.



Mike Bavier enjoys the complimentary turkey sandwich that comes with winning the Charles Bartlett Award.



Chuck Anfield, Paul Winterbottom, Tim Putnam, Chris Gaughn, Chad Morris and Larry Raschko (I don't know either—I think they all had a part in Chuck's being where he is today).

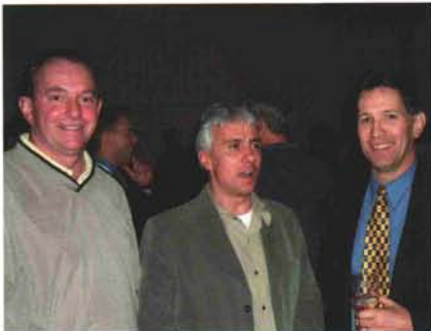


Tim and Jean Davis make a cute couple.



The lure of free food and drinks brought Gene and Donna Thompson to the show.

Key Mouse Operation



Tim Johnson, Chuck Odierno and Warren Shafer mug for the now-impaired photographer.



Dave and Tracy Radaj had a little fun in the room.



Melanie and Jim Keith pose in their finest resort wear.



Shane Kissack and Jeff Hoste (complete with spankin' new business cards still damp from the presses) obviously enjoyed the room.



Tom Healy and Jim Reed, most likely discussing the nuts and bolts of irrigation systems from the ground up.



Don Ferreri, Joel Purpur and Don Cross (the one with all the ribbons on his name tag).

After the show, many of our members stayed around Orlando for a few days of relaxation—walking parks from dawn to midnight, trying to deal with overstimulated, overtired and oversugared kids—or even took the opportunity to explore other Florida attractions. While Disney called many, Key West was once again the next stop for a few. Ed Fischer and his wife Jan, Paul Bastron, Chad Ball and John Maguire rode Harleys from Orlando to Key West (about a six-hour cruise) in a fairly constant downpour, only to be

greeted in the southernmost reaches of our country by beautiful, balmy weather. Try drying leathers in 80% humidity! Mike Mumper and I took the safer route, choosing to drive a car down there and rent scooters (just smaller Harleys) once safely on the island. Mike also had the good fortune to land a huge, swimming, slithery thing called a tarpon while basking in the Florida sunshine; and no, he didn't sweat a drop bringing the protesting sonofagun into the boat . . .



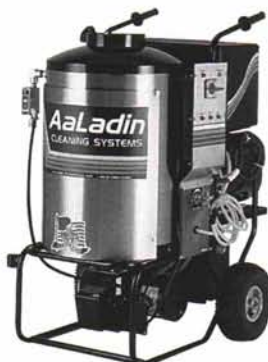
Harley men Ed Fischer, Paul Bastron, Chad Ball and John Maguire, with scooter men John Gurke and Mike Mumper. We had to pay them to be included in their "club."



Mike Mumper brings his tarpon to the boat. The fish weighed 110 pounds and was 6 feet long (as was the photographer, only the photographer avoided being hooked).

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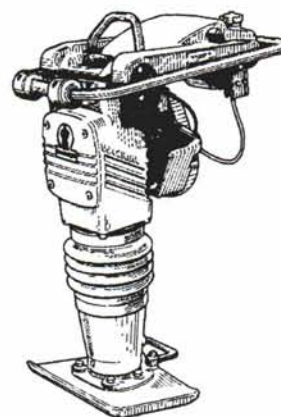
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