



THE VOICE OF EXPERIENCE

Bob Williams *Retired*

- Have you noticed the three “Fs” of how successful superintendents treat their staff and crew members? As Friends, as Family, with Firmness. Remember these three important Fs: friends, family, firm.

- Enthusiasm is contagious, but so is pessimism. Remember this when the going gets tough: We can . . . We will . . . We did.

- Obviously not all, but some, green committees take pleasure in building monuments to their “golf course architectural ignorance” by changing the features of their courses. Presently, it appears that many of the changes are of a subjective nature, usually dominated by the low handicappers. Long-range plans for architectural changes work best when dictated by majority opinion and survey of the membership.



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At its Thursday, April 18 meeting, the MAGCS Board of Directors:

Registered a thank-you letter from:

- The GCSAA Platinum Tee Club for the \$5,000 donation.

Discussed other matters.

- The spring meeting of the Past Presidents Council was very well-attended, with 15 past presidents and current president Luke Strojny on hand at River Forest C.C. As always, the Council provided substantive, meaningful feedback and suggestions. A report from Joel Purpur, chair of the Council, is forthcoming.
- Editorial Committee chair Dave Braasch presented the details of a new editorial award for MAGCS members who are NOT superintendents. The Board approved the award as well as the guidelines and criteria developed

by the Editorial Committee. For more details, see below.

- Long-Range Planning Committee chair Luke Cella described his committee's initiative and ideas to standardize the format of all committee SOPs and enhance the transition of committee leadership each year.
- Membership Committee chair Tim Anderson provided detailed statistics and analysis on MAGCS membership trends. The Board further examined the "honorary member" category and decided that current criteria for honorary membership are appropriate.
- The Environmental Committee is lobbying for more MAGCS superintendents to participate in the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Golf Courses. Also, courses currently enrolled in the

ACSP are encouraged to join in the North American Birdwatching Open on May 11. See article on page 17.

- The Board approved accounts payable expenses for March in the amount of \$19,073.25.

Reminders:

- Complete minutes from each Board of Directors meeting are available on the MAGCS Web site, www.magcs.org.
- Only members of the MAGCS are eligible to register for and play at monthly golf meetings. Substitutions for preregistered players must be members as well.
- Sponsorships for MAGCS monthly golf meetings June through September are still available. Interested parties may call Mike Mumper at 847-823-8682.



Introducing the Fred D. Opperman Editorial Award!

Midwest superintendents who contribute to On Course vie for the Ray Gerber Editorial Award, which recognizes the best superintendent-authored article appearing in our magazine each year (defined as September through August). Starting this year, MAGCS members in categories C, D, E, F and G have one more incentive to write for our magazine: the opportunity to earn the Fred D. Opperman Editorial Award.

The MAGCS Board of Directors and the Editorial Committee are pleased to sponsor this award and encourage submissions to *On Course* by assistant golf course superintendents, students, associate/commercial members, and others covered by the eligible membership categories. We are also delighted to name this award after Fred D. Opperman, whose contributions as the longtime editor of this magazine (1983-99) are legendary.

The following are guidelines established for the Fred D. Opperman Editorial Award. Questions? Call or e-mail Dave Braasch, Editorial Committee chair.

1. Articles eligible for the award must be written by a member of the MAGCS who is at the time of submission a class C, D, E, F or G

member. All articles published in *On Course* meeting this requirement will be considered; however, "Super-N-Site" articles are not eligible.

2. Eligible articles include those published in the September through August issues of *On Course*.
3. Judging of the articles will be based on the following criteria:
 - a) The article provides useful information of interest to Midwest members.
 - b) The article is clear and easy to read.
 - c) The author makes good use of graphics (e.g., photos, illustrations, tables, etc.) to support the text and further add to the article's value.
4. Articles originally published elsewhere and then published in *On*

Course will not be considered for the award.

5. For the awarding of this honor to occur, at least six eligible articles must appear in any given qualifying year (September through August). If fewer than six articles qualify in any one year, those qualifying will be carried over to the next year(s) until there are six articles to be judged.
6. A panel of five judges will select the winning entry. The panel will consist of the MAGCS president, a retired superintendent, the editor, the Editorial Committee chair and the contributing editor.





Name: Erwin McKone, River Forest C.C.
 Job title: Assistant superintendent
 Date of birth: January 27, 1970
 Place of birth: Flint, MI
 Current residence: Elmhurst
 Spouse: Kristin (five years)
 Children: Daughter expected May 2002
 Pet: Mabel, Henry (golden retrievers)
 MAGCS member since: 1996
 College/degree: University of Michigan,
 B.S. in biology
 My favorite childhood memory is: Playing pepper
 with my father.
 My professional mentor: Hank Wilkinson, Bob
 Kronn, Joel Purpur
 Favorite actor: Kevin Spacey
 Favorite musical performer: Grateful Dead

Favorite cuisine: Steak at The Lodge
 Favorite "pigout" food: Pizza
 Favorite sports team: 2002 Stanley Cup champs
 Detroit Redwings
 Favorite pro athlete: Ted Williams
 Favorite pro golfer: Nick Price
 My favorite place to play golf is: Boyne, MI
 My handicap index: 14
 My best/most memorable round ever: Conway Farms,
 a last round with good friend Kevin Kwak now
 in Davenport, IA.
 The most interesting/exotic place I've ever traveled:
 Mt. Robson, Alberta, Canada
 The book I've been recommending lately: *Golf Is Not a
 Game of Perfect* by Dr. Bob Rotella
 The last great movie I saw: *Monsters, Inc.*
 Favorite TV show: *The Simpsons*
 Favorite color: Anything bright
 In my spare time, I enjoy: Hockey, working out
 Three words that describe me: Charming, handsome,
 delusional
 What I enjoy most about my job: Watching the sun
 rise.
 What I dislike about my job: Critical people.
 I'm a Midwest member because: Sometimes my boss
 lets me play golf.



~Superintendents~

Submit Your Article for
 the 2002 Ray Gerber
 Editorial Award!

If you've ever thought of writing an article for
On Course, now is the time! Original superintendent-
 authored articles appearing in the magazine through
 the August issue are eligible for this year's Ray Gerber
 Editorial Award, which will be presented at the 50th
 Annual Midwest Turf Clinic in November. Upcoming
 deadlines are as follows: for the July issue, June 1;
 for the August issue, July 1. Articles published in
 September and beyond will be eligible for the
 2003 competition.

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