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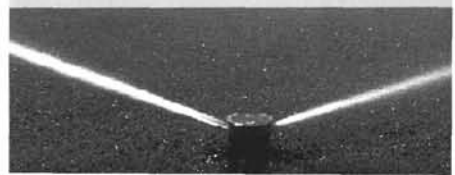
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The signature hole at Pine Meadow is no. 12, a lovely par 3.  
(Photo by Jim Trzinski)

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Fred Opperman

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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# Doing More With Less

*As superintendents, we are challenged to do more with less. Since I became a superintendent, I have witnessed this phenomenon of dwindling resources firsthand. Many of the pesticides that were in use when I first started are no longer available. It is much more difficult to hire employees than in the past. At my club, each employee undergoes a State of Illinois background check, plus we check their Social Security number to make sure it corresponds with their birth date. Budgets have grown, but at a pace less than the rate of inflation. Government regulations covering everything from fuel storage tanks to rinse pads all have taken a piece of the money pie. Sure, greens fees have also increased, but will fees continue to increase to the point of making golf unaffordable? I do not have an answer to this question or a solution for our other dilemmas.*

*As your MAGCS  
Board of Directors,  
we too are trying  
to do more with less.  
Fewer clubs are  
willing to host meetings.  
Less sponsorship monies  
have been available  
this year. Yet we  
continue to provide  
our membership a  
reasonable price for  
a day of golf, food  
and prizes.*

Registration for the recent Merit Club meeting brought up many questions about doing more with less. (Okay . . . how is he going to tie this all together?) In the eight years I have been on the MAGCS Board, we have never had a surplus number of clubs willing to host one of our meetings. Poplar Creek was originally going to host the July meeting, but when Oscar Miles offered the Merit Club, the Board of Directors felt it was a great opportunity for the membership to play a premier club. I hope some of you think this was a good idea.

In any event, the major complaint I heard about the July meeting was registration. Since January, I have been preaching the use of e-mail for all of your MAGCS correspondences. More than 200 of you took advantage of e-mail. This posed a problem no one figured. The people who get their correspondence through the regular mail (snail mail) got the meeting notice much later than those signed up for e-mail notification.

The Board has adopted a plan to help alleviate this problem. Going forward, we will begin to take registrations on some designated future date. In other words, you will not be able to register before a certain date, thus allowing everyone an equitable chance of getting into the meeting.

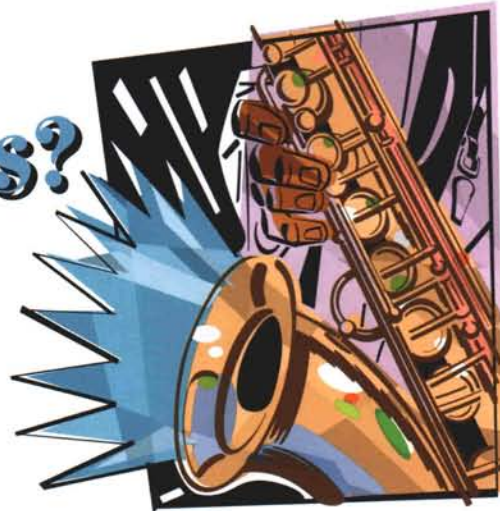
We also fielded complaints about the price of the meeting. Gone are the days of free greens fees and carts. Let's all take a look at it, ladies and gentlemen. Who is willing to give up a day with no income plus pay for staff? The usual process in calculating the price of a meeting goes something like this: we get the cost from the club for golf, carts and food. Our fixed costs of postage, prizes and other expenses are added to it. Then, any sponsorship money is

*(continued on page 29)*



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# Membership Has Its Privileges

*According to its SOP (standard operating procedures), the purpose of the Membership Committee is quite simple: "The Membership Committee shall make known the purpose of the Association by contacting eligible nonmembers, and advising them of the programs and benefits offered through the Association so that others will want to join with us in the pursuit of our objectives."*

The MAGCS is one of 102 GCSAA affiliated chapters. This includes affiliated chapters in Hawaii, Canada and Guam. Based on year 2000 figures, the MAGCS ranked 7th-largest among the GCSAA affiliated chapters (Table 1).

*Currently, we tally 278 class A and B (superintendent) members. There are 83 class C (assistant superintendent) members. Assuming that all superintendent members have an assistant, then only one out of every three assistants is a member of MAGCS.*

(Table 1)

**MAGCS vs. Other GCSAA Chapters, 2000**

CHAPTER	TOTAL SIZE	MEMBERS CLASS A	MEMBERS CLASS B	MEMBERS CLASS C	MEMBERS OTHER
1) Carolinas	1,580	519	179	259	623
2) Florida	1,081	598	209	238	36
3) Minnesota	934	277	107	183	367
4) Georgia	907	254	94	219	340
5) Rocky Mountain	638	169	57	153	259
6) Cactus & Pine	614	205	70	112	227
7) <b>MAGCS</b>	<b>613</b>	<b>245</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>231</b>
8) Northern Calif.	607	167	58	86	296

According to the most recent figures from 2001, the MAGCS has slipped from 7th to 8th-largest of the GCSAA affiliated chapters (Table 2).

(Table 2)

**Ten Largest GCSAA Chapters, Ranked by Total # of Members**

	2000	2001
1st	Carolinas 1580	Carolinas 1801
2nd	Florida 1081	Florida 1151
3rd	Minnesota 934	Minnesota 912
4th	Georgia 907	Georgia 891
5th	Rocky Mountain 638	New Jersey 664
6th	Cactus & Pine 614	Rocky Mountain 659
7th	<b>MAGCS 613</b>	Cactus & Pine 618
8th	Northern Calif. 607	<b>MAGCS 610</b>
9th	New Jersey 585	Iowa 582
10th	Iowa 575	Ontario 551

\*For 2001, Northern California had not submitted their chapter survey. Most likely, they would have appeared somewhere in the top 10.

(continued on page 6)



Over the last five years, the MAGCS has realized a 5% growth in membership (Table 3). While membership has grown, the makeup of the membership, expressed on a percent basis (Table 4), has remained basically unchanged.

(Table 3)  
MAGCS Membership, 5-Year Historical

Membership Class	2002	2001	2000	1999	1998
A	234	245	252	245	227
B	45	43	41	36	48
AA retired	30	27	29	28	29
C	97	87	93	81	80
D	14	10	11	9	12
E	170	158	163	164	175
F	1	0	0	0	0
G	3	4	3	1	0
H	16	17	17	15	13
I	0	0	3	0	0
Total	610	591	612	579	584

(Table 4)  
MAGCS Membership, 5-Year Historical, Expressed As %

Membership Class	2002	2001	2000	1999	1998
A	39%	40%	41%	42%	39%
B	7%	7%	7%	6%	8%
AA retired	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%
C	16%	15%	15%	14%	14%
D	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%
E	28%	27%	27%	28%	30%
F	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
G	0%	1%	0%	0%	0%
H	3%	3%	3%	3%	2%
I	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Based on the preceding information, the Membership Committee has established the following five goals.

**GOAL 1:**

*Increase the number of class A and B (superintendent) members.*

By cross-referencing our directory against the publication *Chicagoland Golfer*, we identified 130-plus local courses that are currently not members of MAGCS (Table 5). These local nonmember courses have been sent membership information on MAGCS and GCSAA along with a complementary issue of *On Course*.

(Table 5)  
Statistics of MAGCS Membership vs. Local Courses  
as Listed in *Chicagoland Golfer*

Course Type	<i>Chicagoland Golfer</i>	MAGCS A/B members	MAGCS Non-member
Private	88	82	6
Public	275	142	133
Totals	363	224	139

**GOAL 2:**

*Increase the number of class C members.*

Currently, we tally 278 class A and B (superintendent) members. There are 83 class C (assistant superintendent) members. Assuming that all superintendent members have an assistant, then only one out of every three assistants is a member of MAGCS. All courses were sent information offering class C memberships at a prorated cost of \$40 through the end of September.

**GOAL 3:**

*Increase the number of class D (student) members.*

Prior to the summer break, packets were sent out to program directors at eight local turf schools. These packets contained membership applications and informational brochures about the Association. Directors were asked to make this information available to their students.

**GOAL 4:**

*Increase the number of GCSAA votes that are assigned to MAGCS.*

Currently, 274 MAGCS members have assigned their GCSAA vote to MAGCS. The MAGCS represents a large voting block within the GCSAA (one of the top 10). This year, we are including paperwork necessary to assign a vote to MAGCS in all new member packets going out to A and B members. We hope to boost the voting power of the Association so that the MAGCS continues to have a strong presence at the national level. If you are unsure of your current voting status, it can be verified by contacting GCSAA.

**GOAL 5:**

*Increase the number of class E (commercial) members.*

Commercial members make up one-third of the Association. It is important to support the commercial members since they work hard to support the efforts of the Association. To attract additional commercial members, we are asking for your help. The next time a commercial nonmember calls on you, take a few moments to



discuss MAGCS with him or her and offer that person a membership application. Applications can be obtained by calling the business office at 630-406-5356, downloading from the MAGCS Web site at [magcs.org](http://magcs.org) (the application form is located toward the bottom of the home page), or contacting me directly at 815-469-5903. Also, you can pick one up at any of the monthly meetings. We would like everyone to keep a blank form on file at their office so that they can quickly offer it to any interested individual.

If a commercial nonmember isn't sure what the MAGCS has to offer, remind him or her of the many benefits associated with membership, including:

- Educational seminars
- Subscription to *On Course*
- Golf events
- Opportunity to participate on committees
- Chance to network, exchange ideas, build friendships

Still not sold? How about these numbers! The MAGCS represents about 280 different golf facilities. If

each of these facilities operated on a purely hypothetical budget of \$500,000 per year, minus 60% deduction for payroll expenses, this means that collectively these courses would have an estimated purchasing power for related goods and services of approximately \$56 million annually. This is a significant number, which makes the little green MAGCS directory book a very valuable resource.

#### Summary

What does all this mean? As with all associations, membership is our lifeblood. While membership continues to grow, and our voting status with the GCSAA remains very strong, we are beginning to fall behind other affiliated chapters in terms of rate of growth. Membership recruitment is the responsibility of all current members. One of the many privileges that comes along with membership is the opportunity to become actively involved in the recruitment of new MAGCS members.



*Applications can be obtained by calling the business office at 630-406-5356, downloading from the MAGCS Web site at [magcs.org](http://magcs.org) (the application form is located toward the bottom of the home page), or contacting me directly at 815-469-5903.*



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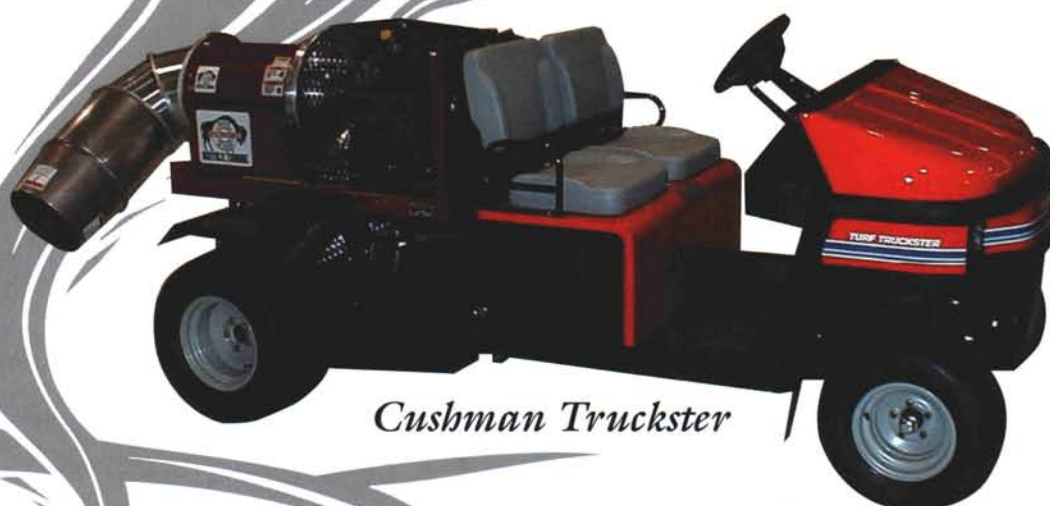
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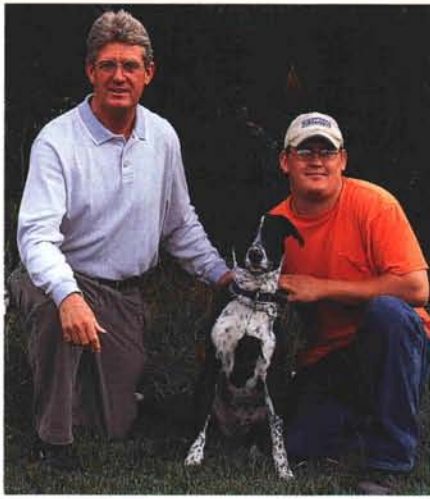
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# Tom Savage -N-

Photos by Jim Trzinski.



Tom Savage, son Jon and four-legged family member Bailey.



## Pine Meadow Golf Club

*How ironic is the year 2002!*

We celebrate a “new beginning” as the Chicago District Golf Association’s Midwest Golf House marks its one-year anniversary. The Golf House is adjacent to Cog Hill, built on land donated by the Jemsek family.

The MAGCS September meeting will be held at Joe Jemsek’s crown jewel of the northern suburbs, Pine Meadow.

And sadly, we close the book on the life and career of public golf’s champion, Joe Jemsek, the man that has meant so much to Chicago golf.

And how appropriate is it that one of the last pictures we see of Joe Jemsek (*Chicagoland Golf*, April 2002 issue) shows a soft hand gesture. I picture a man saying: “Come enjoy my golf courses—you professionals to beginners. Be part of Chicago golf. Thank you for making my life so enjoyable.”

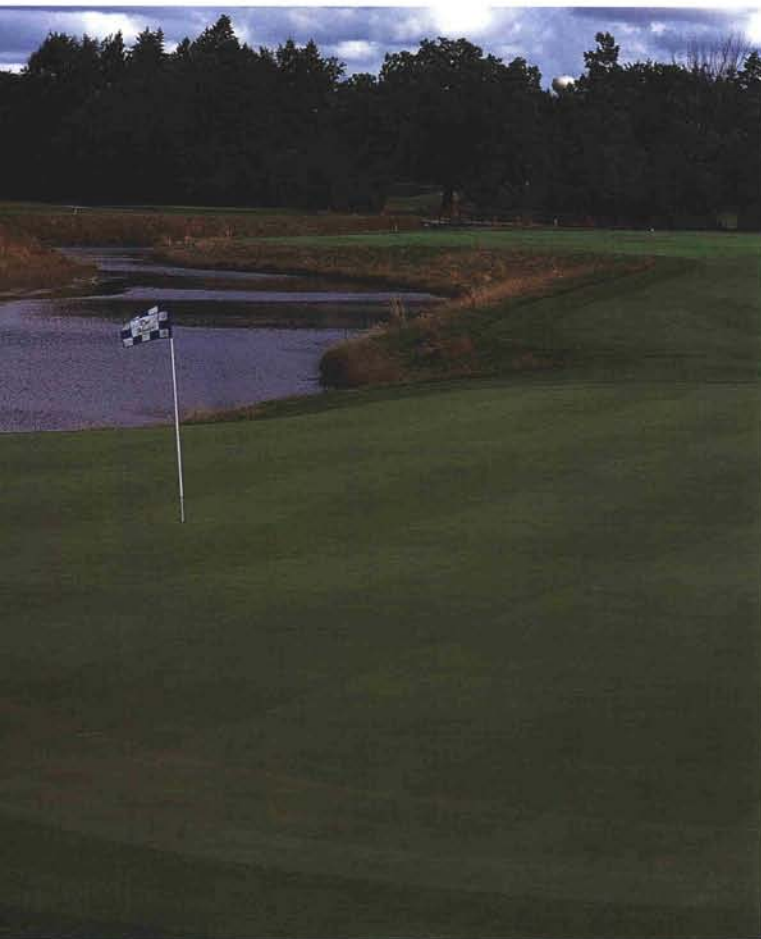
When I sat down with Tom Savage, Pine Meadow’s superintendent, one thing he reiterated about his track was the beauty, serenity and calmness of the golf course. It’s a place that Joe Jemsek would be so proud to claim as “a Jemsek golf course.”

Other elements of Jemsek golf that Tom Savage embodies are family, friends and customer service.

The day I talked with Tom, our discussion was routinely interrupted as Tom spoke with his family (son Jon works for dad), the staff and the customers. I got the feeling I was at a family gathering.

Tom waxed so proudly about his family: wife Marjorie (30 years together); four children—Erin (28), Cory (26), Jon (22) and Kevin (12); his grandchildren Eric (5) and Madison (3); and we can’t forget his pals, four-legged buddies Bailey, Abby Rose and McKenzie.

Tom has coached baseball for 25 years. He runs the traveling squad for 11- to 12-year-olds. His AABC  
*(continued on page 10)*



Hole no. 14 at Pine Meadow is a par-4 dogleg right around water.



baseball teams won the 1992 state championship and are the reigning 2002 champs. "Coaching baseball allows me to spend more time with my kids," Tom explains. Besides running a Jemsek jewel and coaching baseball, Tom fishes, has a craft business and plays to a 4-handicap. Unfortunately, the family championship belongs to Jon.

As much as I tried to move on to different questions, Tom's responses gravitated back to the same theme: family, friends, customers. Tom started in the business in 1966 with his mentor and friend Ken Lapp at Fresh Meadows. He spent his summers at Fresh Meadows while completing his high school and college education. From 1972 to 1978, he followed Ken to Cog Hill. There, he worked as Ken's assistant. In 1978, he took the superintendent position at Fresh Meadows, where he stayed through 1988, then back to Cog Hill by his mentor's side. In 1989, he moved up to Pine Meadow and took over the operations.

All of his children have worked for either Tom or Pine Meadow and the Jemsek family. A number of Tom's maintenance associates come from families who have worked for the Jemseks for multiple generations.



*Pictured here during the Jemsek family's development of Pine Meadow on land leased from St. Mary of the Lake Seminary in Mundelein are (L to R) a Village of Mundelein trustee; the legendary Joe Jemsek, champion of public golf in Chicagoland; and Father Richard Schroeder, then procurator of the Seminary (now retired). Thank you to Syngenta's Jim Shone for providing this historic photo.*

Pine Meadow is located on land leased from the St. Mary of the Lake Seminary located in Mundelein. The original 12 holes on the site were designed and built in 1929. After numerous years, the original layout was pretty much in disrepair when the seminary finally agreed to allow Mr. Jemsek to build a true Jemsek golf course. Pine Meadow was born in 1984.

Golf course architect Joe Lee came on board to do the redesign. Assisting Joe Lee was a young designer, Rocky Roquemore. None of the original holes exists today as passed down by the seminarians, while Lee built the six additional holes from scratch. The features that remained unchanged from the old course were the open space, mature trees, wildlife and peaceful atmosphere. Pine Meadow opened to the public in 1985 and in 1986 was honored by *Golf Digest* as its Best New Public Course for that year. Once again, Joe Jemsek's commitment to the customer, quality and making upscale courses available to every golfer was evident.



*Pine Meadow's par-4 hole no. 18.*

I asked Tom to comment about the unique attributes of Pine Meadow. He said, "You will remember the rolling fairways, mature trees everywhere, no houses scattered around the holes and different types of wildlife everywhere." Tom commented that he loves to drive around the course to see the various species of animals and birds. The greens are large, averaging 10,000 square feet; the course has 84 large bunkers and water on eight holes (one on the front side, seven on the back). Pine

*(continued on page 12)*