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FRONT COVER

Hole no. 9 at Odyssey Golf Club. Playing downwind, big hitters may fly tee shot over creek cutting across fairway flanked by wetlands and water. Creek is about 125 yards from center of green. Be careful of the waste bunkers on right-hand side while teeing off. Second shot into elevated green is guarded by water and bunker on the right side. Green-side mounding and the two tiers makes accuracy on approach critical. (Photo courtesy Odyssey Golf Club.)

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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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ON COURSE
WITH THE PRESIDENT
Kevin DeRoo *Bartlett Hills Golf Course*

Reflections During Wartime

By May—for most—the golfing season is in full swing (no pun intended). Given the world's events over this past month, the opening of our respective golf courses seemingly takes on a dimension of little importance. Not to say that what we do is not important, but in the grand scheme of things, keeping things in perspective, golf is still just a game. After all, right now halfway around the globe the men and women of the Armed Services are putting their lives on the line in the Middle East. They are fighting for freedoms we almost always take for granted, and certainly overlook on a daily basis. On our behalf, on behalf of our children and our children's children, I would like to thank them all for doing their jobs to the best of their abilities, and for fighting for all those who cannot fight for themselves.

War arises out of a twisted menagerie of cultural, political, religious and economic differences, the likes of which I could not begin to explain or comprehend, even with 24 hours of daily network coverage.

Being a simple citizen, I have only these few observations. War is always an ugly occurrence. War is proof positive that policies only work when obeyed. Diplomatic reasoning usually fails when compromise is thrown out of the equation. The next war is always unlike any other war that preceded it. War arises out of a twisted menagerie of cultural, political, religious and economic differences, the likes of which I could not begin to explain or comprehend, even with 24 hours of daily network coverage.

Without getting too political here, as that same simple citizen home here in America, I see my duty as one of support. I do not have to particularly agree with everything our government is doing all the time, but I do put my faith in their judgment and analysis of all the facts. I believe our biggest responsibility here at home is simple: show support in any way we can for all those who fight for the freedoms we enjoy. I find it quite ironic that war protestors are given the freedom to protest against a conflict that, in essence, is a fight for one of the very freedoms that gives them the right to protest.

This war, like most wars before it, will undoubtedly come to an eventual end. To that prospect, we pray that it happens soon, and that it happens with a clear and precise outcome. It has most assuredly already affected us all in one way or another. For all those with loved ones in the military services stationed in the Middle East, we hope and pray for your family members' quick and safe return. For the rest of us back home, we do not need to be economists to know our economy has not bounced back as swiftly as we all would have hoped. To some degree, most of us have already felt and seen projected revenue shortfalls, tightened budgets and labor cutbacks. In times such as these, we will be expected to do more with less. Some things about war never change.



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Communicate; Cultivate; Participate!

I would like to thank President DeRoo and the Board of Directors for my appointment as the MAGCS class C advisor. In my humble opinion, the recent addition of a class C advisory position to the Board of Directors is an important ingredient for the Association's successful future. A strong association will have experienced young members eager and ready for the challenge of participating in association leadership. It is our hope that this position will create greater class C and D participation with our Association and its events. The success of this position, however, relies heavily on the continued support of the entire membership. Class A and B members can ensure the success of this endeavor in several ways: by communicating your experience as a committee or Board member; by acting as a resource; and by supporting participation in the Association by fellow MAGCS members at your facility.

The real benefit of membership in the Association comes from active participation and involvement. Passive membership fails to reap the rewards the Association offers: networking, information-sharing, support and friendship.

Communication of personal past experience with the Board and committees provides guidance and direction to the potential future leader. As anyone who works with the Board or a committee will tell you, it is important to have an understanding of the process: its functions and limitations. Oftentimes, new Board or committee members will revisit topics that have been discussed previously. Communication serves to make the Board and committees productive and efficient by limiting redundant or repetitive conversation. Learning the valuable lessons from past mistakes and accomplishments is only possible when communication is effective. Communication can also provide insights into some of the more obscure aspects of group leadership, such as politics and negotiation. Sharing of past Board and committee experience (good and bad) creates yet another unique learning opportunity.

What does it mean to be a resource? We can be resources ourselves for a variety of needs to numerous individuals. Most fathers and mothers are available resources for cash and car rides to their children. Superintendents are valuable resources to their staffs for knowledge and skill in maintaining turf-grass, but they can also serve as a resource on many non-turf issues. I constantly bombard my boss with my ideas and proposals. We can talk in an informal manner, examining the nuances of situations without combative or judgmental undertones. I have a deep appreciation for our relationship and use him as a resource to receive feedback. Frequently, we may discuss points of view that are not our own but are worth discussing because they need to be addressed or prepared for. Human nature makes it difficult to hear the things that you don't want to hear, but it is understood that our conversations sometimes are based on principle and not on personality. I also use my available resources to "test the water." Ideas may need to be reworded to communicate them effectively. Understanding how the things I say are interpreted is important in order to

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avoid my audience mistaking my motive. Using my available resources, I can limit the amount of times I make an absolute fool of myself by saying ridiculous things. Note that I can't totally eliminate being a donkey, I said reduce.

Participation in our Association is a rewarding experience. I am fortunate to have been given the opportunity to play a part in the Association in the past through committee work and attending functions. Participation has led to informative conversations, educational experiences and best of all, friendships. I am proud to belong to the Midwest and to be associated with so many talented and interesting professionals. My resource list has grown as a result, which directly benefits the workplace. My participation was made possible by the support of my facility. Without the support of the superintendent and club, the rewards of my belonging to the Association would not exist. Realizing that the

stressful times of midsummer make attending all functions difficult, some flexibility ensures deriving the benefits of membership in the Association. The real benefit of membership in the Association comes from active participation and involvement. Passive membership fails to reap the rewards the Association offers: networking, information-sharing, support and friendship. If you agree that our Association is beneficial to the profession, do you fully support the active involvement of all MAGCS members at your facility? Are you missing some of the benefits of membership by not participating yourself?

I am grateful to all the members in every class who have volunteered their time and/or money to the Midwest. Those individuals in some capacity have made the Association stronger and have allowed myself and fellow members the opportunity to continually develop ourselves professionally. Thanks to the associate members and their continued support

of our events and wonderful publication, to the honorary members and their tremendous efforts supporting our profession, and to the life members—my respect and admiration for your accomplishments. From time to time I would encourage everyone to revisit the mission of the MAGCS, which can be found in the second part of Article I of the By-laws (page one in the membership directory). With the purpose of the Association in mind, it is easy to support the efforts of those interested in participating. Here's to a successful golf and golf management season—fore!



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Samuel Lehrfeld -N- Odyssey Golf Club

Odyssey Golf Club and Sam Lehrfeld will play host to the May 20th ITF/MAGCS combined meeting. Ray Schei is proud to announce that Sam will be taking over the reins (and the reign) as golf course superintendent of Odyssey Golf Club. Ray has reached the golden age of retirement and states that he has hosted more than his fair share of MAGCS monthly meetings during his tenure as a superintendent at various courses.

The course features a Curtis Strange design, including its no. 16 signature hole, a 526-yard par-5 dogleg with an island green . . . The topography of Odyssey includes a plethora of hidden bunkers and an abundance of water features.

Sam was born in Harvey, Illinois, and raised in the neighboring towns of Park Forest and Country Club Hills. A graduate of Rich Central High School, he states that golf was not his first path taken—it was an interest in music. He picked up the sticks and became a drummer working locally and later traveling with a band. His travels took him to the West Coast, where he earned an associate's degree in turf plant science from California's Pierce College. Sam also maintained his musical interest by continuing to work as a studio musician.

As with many people, Sam realized that there is no place like home and returned to Illinois in 1984. His interest in maintaining the environment led him to the golf course profession. Sam initially worked for Ray Schmitz as a spray technician before being promoted to assistant superintendent. Sam later crossed the border into the Hoosier state and worked as a golf course superintendent at Calumet Golf Course in Gary, Indiana.

It was in 1997 that Sam made the trek to Odyssey Golf Club to become the assistant to Ray Schei. Together they managed the 30 acres of bent fairways, three acres of greens and five acres of tees that comprise the 18-hole facility located in Tinley Park, Illinois. The architect is Harry Bawers; the course was constructed by Cress Equipment Company in 1989. The course features a Curtis Strange design, including its no. 16 signature hole, a 526-yard par-5 dogleg with an island green, which Sam states is currently being renovated. The topography of Odyssey includes a plethora of hidden bunkers and an abundance of water features.

Sam says that his greatest challenge is maintaining both the golf course and the environment at the same time. Sam consults with the Audobon Society and works to encourage waterfowl populations while maintaining the water features. His planting of wildflower areas is designed to promote healthy wildlife and this is what he considers to be his greatest reward. He hopes that the next 25 years will bring even more environmental awareness to the profession.

His professional mentors are Ray Schmitz, Ray Schei and drummer Tony Williams, who taught him how to apply his skills and encouraged him to expand upon them. He enjoys the game of golf and has a working knowledge

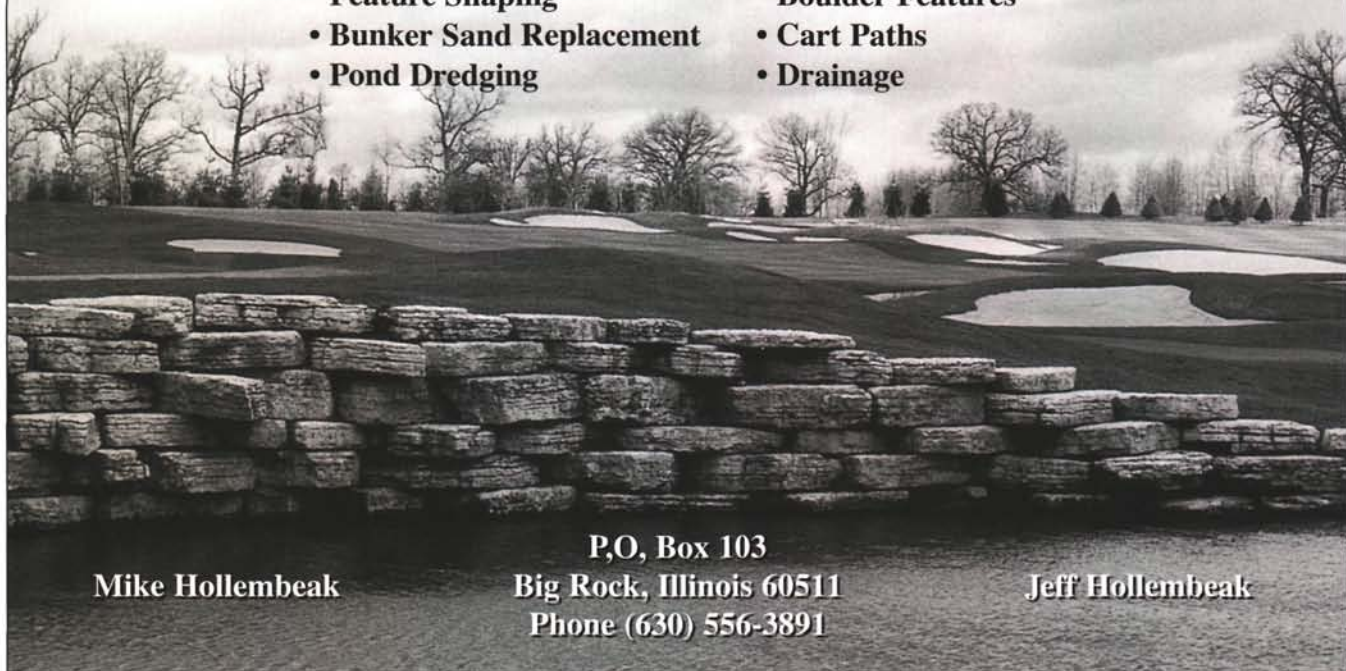
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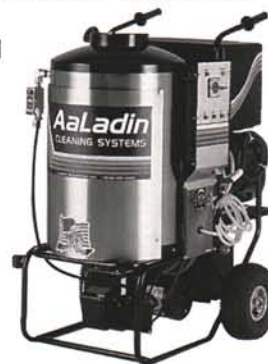
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of the Rules as relates to defining and marketing the golf course. Working under Ray, playing is mandatory, and Sam enjoys the challenge of a game with Ray as well. During their partnership, Ray and Sam experienced many trials along with many comical moments. The most memorable was finding a snapping turtle the size of an alligator with an Odyssey golf ball in its mouth. The turtle was photographed and the picture was later

printed in the local paper. Sam's most humbling experience is another animal story. It was the retrieval of one of the club's escaped swans from the Cook County Forest Preserves and driving one "Big Bird" to the vet in the passenger seat of his car.

Sam is a member of the GCSAA and was welcomed to membership in the MAGCS in April. He resides in Park Forest with his fiancé and their

three cats. When he is not at work, he often cannot be found at his secret bass-fishing site on the Kankakee River (one of those guys, doesn't want to reveal the secret fishing hole)! With Ray's retirement in April, Sam and his new assistant Brian Trifilio are looking forward to a challenging new season and hope that our men and women in the Armed Forces have some great golf to come home to.



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