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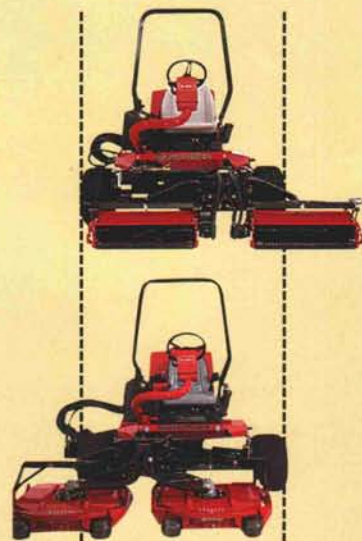
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FRONT COVER

Hole no. 7 at Medinah's newly renovated Course #3 is a 590-yard par 5. This shot reveals the dramatic effect of tree removal, as the green is now in full sun. (Photo by Jim Trzinski)

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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.

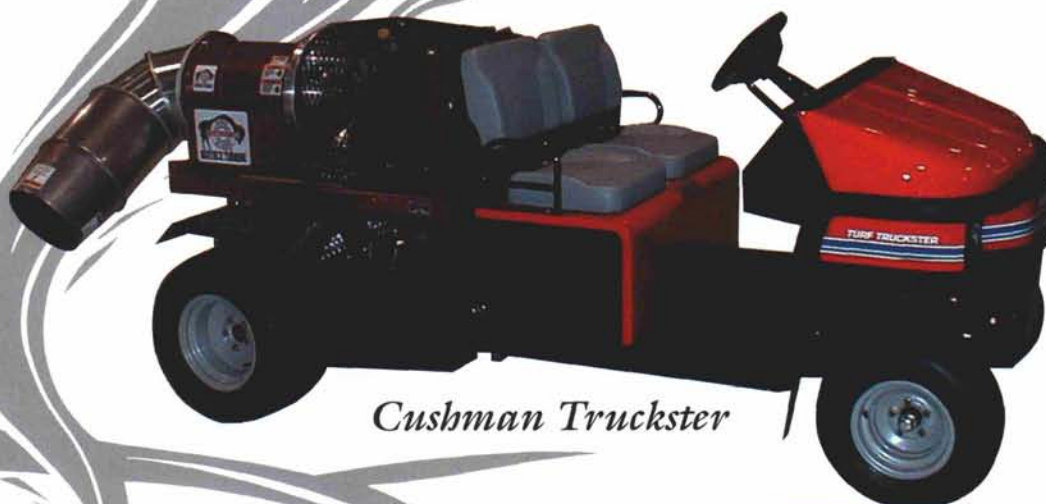
We endeavor to increase efficiency and economic performance while improving and enhancing the individual and collective prestige of the members.

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*

Thanks to All

The leaves on the trees are changing colors, daylight hours are growing shorter, temperatures are getting cooler, golf course aeration is coming to a pleasant end, course improvement projects for some superintendents are in full swing and the loveable Cubbies are still playing baseball. It must be October . . . right?

In 2003, the MAGCS Board of Directors, their respective committees and the host of committee members all kept themselves very busy with Association duties. I am as proud as a parent of this Board and its accomplishments this year. The directors really did make my job easier than it should have been.

Okay, now, we all know which of the above is NOT exactly typical of October. Apparently next year is finally here. While my South Siders were doing their best impression of a cardboard box and folding down the stretch, the Cubby nation was celebrating in the streets as America's team clinched a National League Central Division title. Amazingly enough, the Boston Red Sox were also making some noise in the American League. Would it be too much to ask the baseball gods to find a way for these two teams to meet at the "Big Dance?" Maybe that would have kick-started the economy into overdrive. At least business at the watering holes around Wrigleyville and Fenway was booming. In any event, a change of uniforms in this year's baseball playoffs was welcomed by almost everybody.

Change is on the horizon for the MAGCS as well. This will be my last message to the membership as president. My responsibilities in this leadership role come to an abrupt end at our annual meeting in early November. Professionally, serving MAGCS has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my career. The Boards on which I have served, the people I have met and the places I have seen because of my direct involvement with Association duties far outweigh the amount of time and energy spent on running the Association. A few years back, I ran for the Board of Directors for only one reason: to give something back to the Association. And all it really amounted to was time. Time is a commodity none of us can ever harness, but all of us should learn to better manage. MAGCS has taught me to be a better time manager.

This past year, as with every year, the MAGCS Board faced many unique challenges. The biggest, of course, came with the passing of our executive secretary, George Minnis. For many years, George had been the heart of our Association. He was the organizer behind the organization. He brought us into the computer age and will always be remembered for his contributions to our Association. How would we fill this void?

As I proudly announced at the September meeting at Shoreacres and wrote in my October president's message, Luke Cella accepted the newly created position of executive director for MAGCS and the ITF. He was to begin his new duties on October 20, 2003, working out of the Midwest Golf House in Lemont. I am as excited for the MAGCS and the ITF as I am for Luke entering into his new endeavor. During the long interview process, Luke astonished the selection committee (comprised of the executive boards of MAGCS and ITF), not only with his computer talents, communication skills and organization abilities, but also with his vision for our future. The challenge for Luke

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does not lie in doing the things we already do, better. The real challenge will be in doing well the things we hardly ever do, and making those routine. I truly believe the success of our profession lies with the constant positive promotion of it. By forming this new position and hiring Luke, we have an opportunity to begin doing just that.

In addition to filling this new position, the Board accomplished a few other things as well. Some of the highlights are as follows:

- Formation of the Class C Advisory Council with Erwin McKone (assistant superintendent at River Forest C.C.) chairing this committee.
- Appointment of Sylvia Lima from Leibold Irrigation, Inc. to chair the Commercial Advisory Council.
- Purchase of a laptop computer for the secretary/treasurer position.
- Promotion of the annual "Bird Watching Open" sponsored by Audubon International.

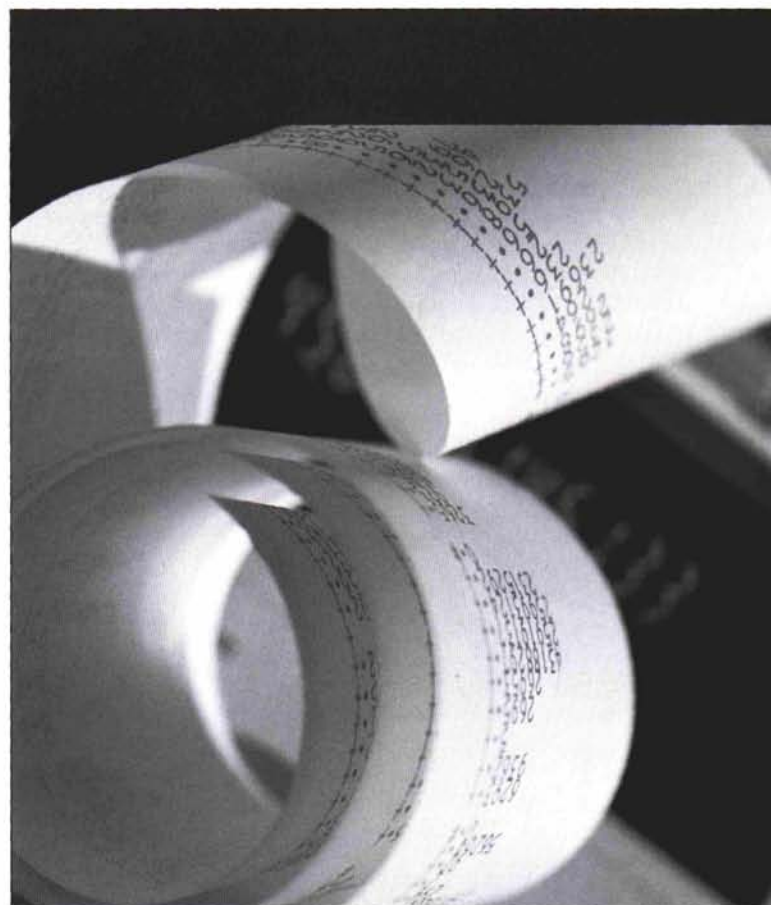
- Awarding of three \$1,000 college scholarships.
- Completion of MAGCS Family Tree.
- Updating and standardization of the S.O.P.s for each committee.
- Completion of the 2003 MAGCS membership survey.
- Integration of PDI education points with GCSAA.
- Completion of *On Course* readership survey.
- Establishment of MAGCS meeting sites for 2004 and almost all of 2005.
- Reformatting of monthly golf events.

To say the least, the MAGCS Board of Directors, their respective committees and the host of committee members all kept themselves very busy with Association duties. I am as proud as a parent of this Board and its accomplishments this year. The directors really did make my job easier than it should have been. Their diligence and commitment of

time to MAGCS is what we as a whole are all about. Participation is really not that hard when you think about it. And to all those who did take part, I sincerely thank you from the bottom of my heart.

To the commercial members of our Association—I cannot begin to tell you how grateful we are for your generosity this year, as we are every year. This fine Association cannot perform as it does without your financial help and to come through like you did this year, shaky economic times and all, is a testament to your faithful support. To the membership—your acceptance of and patience in Board activities has been remarkable. And last, to my family—support is what you always have been to me, and words alone cannot possibly describe what that means.

Thanks to all.



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A Director Takes A New Direction

In his October message, Kevin DeRoo introduced me as the new executive director for the Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents and the Illinois Turfgrass Foundation. My journey from certified golf course superintendent at Tamarack Golf Club and director on the Midwest Board to this newly created role is an interesting one. To wit . . .

Being a member, participating on various committees and serving on the Board of Directors had given me useful insights into the problems and challenges that are encountered by the MAGCS.

Last spring, when we first learned that George Minnis' disease had been diagnosed as terminal, a few things occurred. George conveyed to Kevin his concerns about the ongoing management of MAGCS and Kevin asked if I would spend time with him learning how he administered this Association. After all, no one other than George managed our affairs on a daily basis. Over the next several weeks, I met with George on a regular basis and he gave me detailed lists of the principal tasks he performed. The membership database, the mailings, the e-mails, the faxes, the directory, the golf events—all were explained and notated. George called me with things he had forgotten to mention and strove to make sure all was understood.

It was at this point that George's health plateaued and he held steady for a while. During this period, when I asked how he was feeling, George would respond, "I'm doing okay" or "Not too bad today"—always with an encouraging smile. We discussed the ins and outs of the Association and where things could progress once someone was in the Golf House managing on a full-time basis. Concurrently, we on the Board were in the process of putting out a job description for the position of executive secretary to manage the MAGCS and ITF. Both boards, with input from George, wrote and edited a number of drafts, finally sending out the notice. I personally had thought about the position for myself, but could not find a way to make it work financially. I knew I had the skill set and could overcome any shortcomings to meet the needs of each group.

Don Ferreri, a past president of MAGCS and current president of ITF, called me and asked to meet for lunch. As we hashed out the job description for executive secretary, he inquired about my interest level in the position. I explained to him that I could and would like to make a run for the position, but was unsure about the future. Don simply asked me to write a proposal.

My wheels started to turn. I already knew firsthand what George did for our Association. I was already taking care of some of the basic member requests to lighten the load for George. I thought about the MAGCS, its members and its future. Being a member, participating on various committees and serving on the Board of Directors had given me useful insights into the problems and challenges that are encountered by the MAGCS. Certainly the administration of the MAGCS had been second-to-none owing to the dedication and proficiency displayed by George over many years. As George faced the most formidable challenge in this life, he still was concerned about the MAGCS and making sure each member was content. His ever-present optimism and readiness to accept his future fueled my thoughts about my own future and our Association's promise.

(continued on page 6)

As I contemplated this position and the opportunity for the MAGCS, I realized its importance. I truly felt, as a superintendent member of the MAGCS, that even if I was not the best candidate for the position, we needed someone to represent us. As a member, I wanted to make sure that the day-to-day operations of the Association would be met. But I also saw an opportunity for the future of immeasurable worth and value.

I wrote my proposal. It was filled with ideas and insights:

"While this position currently entails administrative duties, the responsibilities of this position to each association (ITF and MAGCS) are much greater than organization and clerical work. A successful Executive Director fosters the advancement of each member in both associations by becoming the representative of all. The Executive Director is the person that people and organizations outside of our own come into contact with first. A successful Executive Director is able to maintain, grow and improve relationships internally and more importantly, externally."

Working everyday while thinking about my proposal fueled deeper thoughts: *"At present, the golf course superintendent is making great strides marketing the position as the most important at any golf facility. An association run and managed by one who has been in the position is ready to promote that image even further. When compared to other local golf-related associations, (PGA, CDGA, etc.) the MAGCS does not compete. The reason is simple. There is no one person who is able to promote the position of golf course superintendent on a local and full-time basis. The national (GCSAA) aids local chapters, but true exposure and promotion must come from a well-respected and accepted local strength, the Executive Director. The person chosen for this position must be a dynamic individual with the ability to span gaps among related associations, promote the golf course superintendent and bring the superintendent to the forefront of the golfing world."*

I continued bringing up more ideas, focusing on current problems with our operations: *"From my experiences on both boards (MAGCS and ITF), one thing that is lacking from board to board is continuity. Each member of the respective Boards of Directors volunteers time to serve. As with all volunteer work and duties, board members must prioritize tasks before them. At times, because of professional commitments, volunteer or board tasks and duties get placed aside. When this occurs, in combination with yearly turnover of board members and committee chairpersons, much work is repetitive, cumbersome or altogether forgotten. A successful Executive Director will correct this lack of continuity by having a firm handle on the objectives and goals of each committee, by recording and analyzing members' work from year to year."*

One advantage that I possess is knowing what it's like to belong to both of the associations that I now manage. I have been a golf course superintendent; I have walked in your shoes. I know what it is like to live with the weather forecast in the forefront of your mind. I know what it is like to feel incredible fatigue as August wanes. I know what it is like to have a work ethic that is second to none among the professions, to manage a diverse staff, to be a grower, to care for a complex ecosystem. I have become attuned to the many different disciplines that the profession of golf course superintendent entails. I have worked everyday in the sweltering heat, I have pushed the envelope with the plant health (not always under my control), I have strived to always improve conditions and never settle for adequate. I am proud to be part of a group that truly respects my fellow superintendents, not only by fostering professional relationships that advance the group as a whole but also by taking joy and feeling pride when an individual achieves accolades and accomplishments.

It is because of my experiences, because I have shared the challenges that you, the members, face everyday, that I am confident in my decision to take on the role of executive director. I look forward to increasing the value

It is because of my experiences, because I have shared the challenges that you, the members, face everyday, that I am confident in my decision to take on the role of executive director.

of membership in this Association by providing information, enhancing organization and above all, by promoting the importance of the golf course superintendent. I am confident in my knowledge and abilities to promote the image of all. I have many ideas as to how to fulfill my personal goals and the goals of the Association. I am excited about my future as well as the future of the Association and all of the individuals that I will represent.

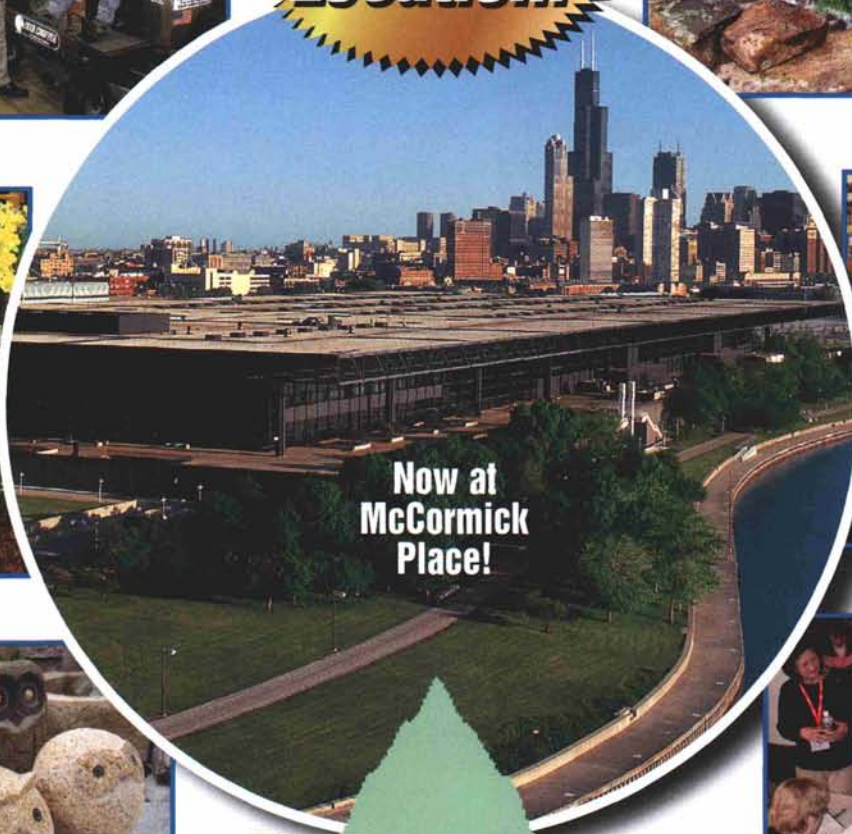
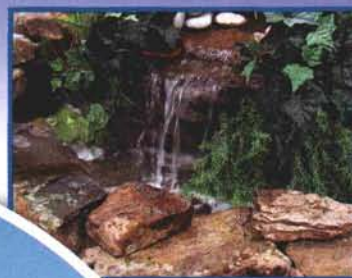
These are exciting times for every member of the Midwest. In the words of Harry S Truman, "Men make history, and not the other way around. In periods where there is no leadership, society stands still. Progress occurs when courageous, skillful leaders seize the opportunity to change things for the better." The leaders of the MAGCS, both past and present, have taken this opportunity to increase the value of membership to each individual, to increase the value of each individual to his or her employer and to collectively promote the profession to others. I am very fortunate to play an integral role in shaping the future of the MAGCS and will do my best for the Association and our profession.



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Tom Lively -N- Medinah Country Club



Thomas Lively, CGCS.



Albert Einstein once said, "In the middle of difficulty lies opportunity."



The new 17th green, returned to the water's edge.

I think this statement reflects Tom Lively's first couple years at Medinah. The difficulty was the immediate impact of the decision to renovate Medinah's championship course, #3. The opportunity lies in the fact that #3 will be on display for everyone to see at the 2006 PGA Championship.

Once a year, we drive through the gates and past the guard house at Medinah as we enter the grounds for the Midwest Turf Clinic. As we slowly traverse the winding road, we see the 18th green for Course #3 and the adjacent flagpole. Little do we know the changes that have occurred on this course over the last two years!

Medinah #3 has received a major facelift, a renovation from tee to green, from hole no. 1 tee to hole no. 18 green. The only area that remained untouched was the historic flagpole that stands behind the 18th green. The flag on top of the pole waves its approval of the completion of a \$4 million course renovation.

Never before in the history of Medinah #3 had the members felt the need to completely shut down the course. Never, until Tom Lively began his career at Medinah with just this opportunity. Tom's mission was to oversee the complete renovation of one of the preeminent golf courses in the country, Medinah #3. After almost two years of planning and actual construction (from fall 2001 to May 2003), Medinah #3, the championship course, reopened to rave reviews and the PGA was ecstatic with the new look.

The actual process began after the 1999 PGA Championship, when the members expressed the need to foster design continuity on Course #3. Golf

(continued on page 10)

course architect Rees Jones was selected to develop a master plan to renovate #3. The spring and summer of 2001 saw the presentation of numerous proposals to various committees and Medinah membership as a whole. In August of 2001, the final proposal received approval and the renovation process began in the winter of 2001-02.

The initial step was to complete the Arborcom study and determine the extent of time that shade covered the greens. Due to the size, age and quantity of old-growth trees dispersed throughout the course, portions of

many greens received only one to two hours of sunlight per day. This limited amount of sunlight was proving to be more and more detrimental each year. As difficult as it was to approve removal of trees, the members knew this was the best long-term course of action. A total of 235 trees were removed around 16 green sites.

As part of the renovation, seven greens were completely rebuilt. With lack of sunlight no longer an inhibiting factor, the club approved the killing and regrassing of the remaining 11 greens. An additional 50 trees were removed from the

various tee boxes. The purpose was twofold: increase the size of the tees and allow more sunlight to the tees. "These type of reviews and removals will continue on a selected basis," explains Tom.

Originally, Course #3 had 66 bunkers, but this jumped to 72 during the project. The bunker renovation included changes in design, location and elevation, addition or complete removal. The location and presentation of the bunkers were evaluated as to the effect on the professionals as well as playability for the members. Bunker



Photos by Jim Trzinski

The newly remodeled par-3 no. 13, now playable from 244 yards.