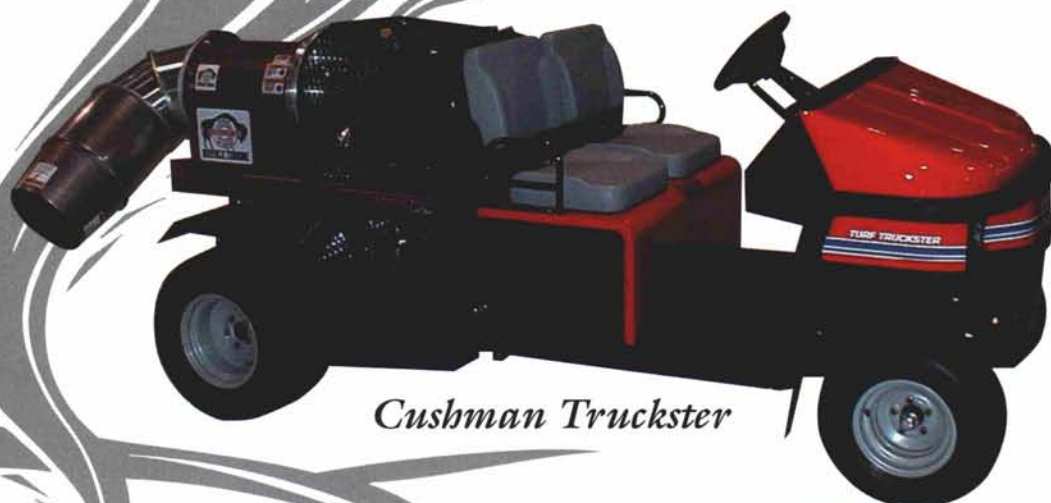


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OCTOBER 2003

Volume 57 No.5

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A view of Prairie Landing Golf Club's no. 8 green.
No. 2 fairway is in the background. (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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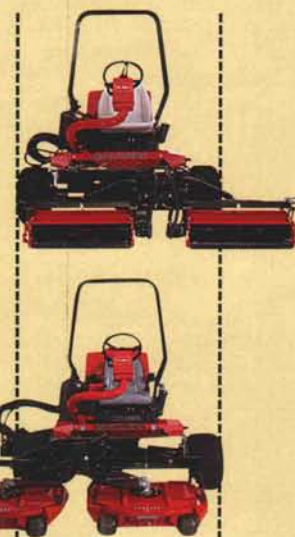
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ON COURSE WITH THE PRESIDENT

Kevin DeRoo Bartlett Hills Golf Course

Changing of the Guard

It is with a somber heart that I write this month's president's message. For on Thursday morning, September 4, 2003, the MAGCS executive secretary, George F. Minnis III, lost his battle with cancer.

George's wife, Karen, asks that we not be saddened by his death, rather rejoice in his life. George touched many lives and had a positive impact on all who came in contact with him. His accomplishments were many, yet he concedes his three greatest achievements were his daughter, Heather, and his two sons, Chris and Robert.



George F. Minnis III
1942 – 2003

*George will always
be remembered
and honored for
what he brought
to MAGCS.*

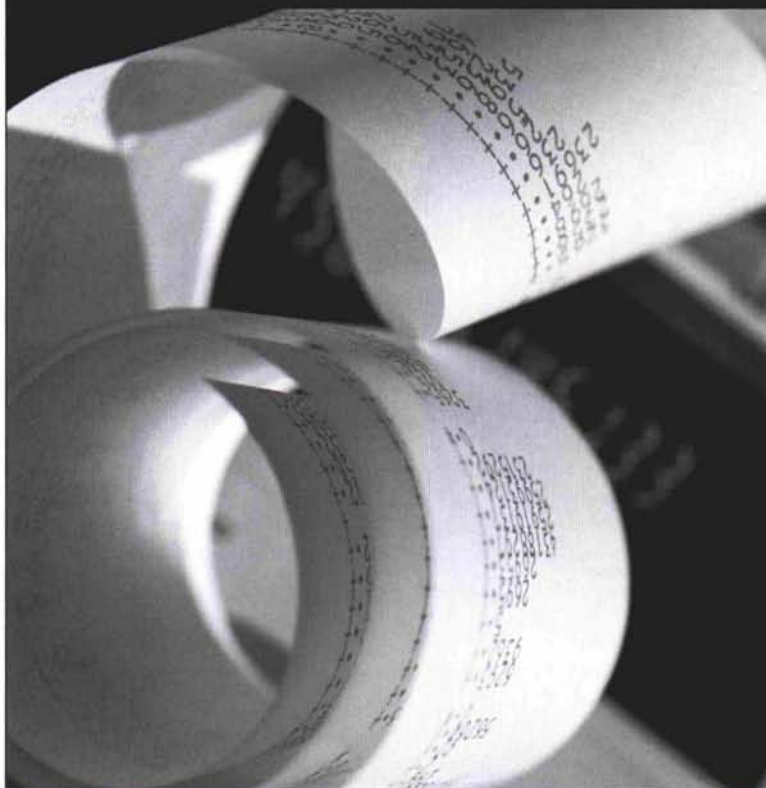
Personally, I feel the loss of a friend. Professionally, the MAGCS—his adopted family—will always be indebted to George for all that he has done for our Association. He brought us into the computer age and was the organizer behind the organization. Karen tells me that even in the midst of his own perilous fight, he was still barking out orders concerning the next MAGCS mailing. In his waning months, George actually thanked us for letting him stay involved with the Midwest. And I quote, "I do not know what I would do without MAGCS." As he was saying this, selfishly the only thought that crossed my mind was, what will MAGCS do without him?

Earlier this year, it was George who came to us and asked that we search for his replacement. The cancer that he had battled for years had returned, this time without respite. Ironically, just hours prior to George's passing, the executive boards of the MAGCS and Illinois Turfgrass Foundation (ITF) were ironing out a proposal to fill the new position of executive director for MAGCS/ITF. After a nationwide search through the American Society of Association Executives (ASAE), the executive boards of both organizations unanimously chose a candidate from our own back yard. Luke Cella, CGCS, has agreed to fill this new position and take our associations into the future.

From the inception of our search, through the review of resumés and during the interview process, it became clear that Luke was the best individual and exceeded the criteria both associations were hoping to meet. Luke has an educational background that includes a degree in golf course management from Kishwaukee College, a B.A. in liberal arts and sciences from the University of Illinois and an M.S. in natural resources and environmental sciences, also from the University of Illinois. As impressive as his educational background is, it was his vision of possibilities for both associations that grabbed the attention of the selection committee. He anxiously wants to bring the MAGCS to the status of the leading GCSAA chapter; he feels that this is as it should be. For the ITF, raising additional money for turfgrass research is always the utmost concern, and Luke is committed to that as well.

With respect to the MAGCS, there is no doubt that Luke can handle the day-to-day operations. From the time George informed us of his failing health, Luke stepped up and volunteered his time to help George and learn the oper-

(continued on page 32)



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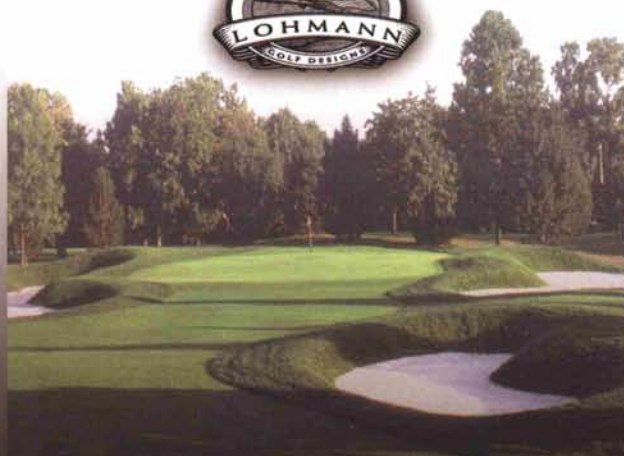


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The Clique

When I was just starting my career, I was asked to run for the Board of MAGCS. At that time, I felt there was no way I was going to give up my free time. After all, I reasoned, I have a family and a job to which I must commit my time. I also felt that I could never sit on the Board, or even a committee for that matter, because I was not part of the "clique." I did not agree with what was then happening with the MAGCS. I had my own opinions about some of the decisions that were being made, but it has always been my belief—either put up or shut up. I decided to shut up.

Before becoming a director, I had heard how the Midwest Board was nothing but a "clique." Our Board is just that, but not the clique I thought they were. We are a group that is willing to put forth the effort and dedicate the time to the organization.

For as long as I have been in this business, I have heard how the Midwest Board of Directors is nothing but a "clique." To belong, you had to be one of the good ole boys, one who ran a private or top-end course. The clique ran the show, and if you were not part of the clique, you basically had no say.

Looking back now, I have to admit that if you were to think now the way I did then, you would be wrong. As I was, even then. I am not part of any "clique," per se, and here I am now—a director.

By definition, a clique is a narrow, exclusive circle or group of persons: one held together by common interests, views or purpose. Our group on the Board is just that, a group that is willing to put personal and social differences aside. A group that is willing to put forth the effort and dedicate the time to the organization.

But the Board of Directors is not the clique I thought they were. Since my involvement on the MAGCS Board began, I have learned that it is all about who is willing to help. Whether it is sitting on a committee or the Board, involvement at any level is a huge help to the organization.

Get involved! By participating on a committee, or the Board, you enjoy so many amazing benefits, including the chance to:

- Keep up-to-date on new trends and products.
- Meet lots of new people.
- Network with your peers.
- Improve organization, communication and writing skills.
- Voice your opinion.
- Make MAGCS a better organization for members.

Every year at the Midwest Turf Clinic, MAGCS has committee sign-up sheets available at the registration desk. We are asking, okay, **begging**, for members to get involved. I don't want to hear that you have no time. That was my excuse, and look where it got me.

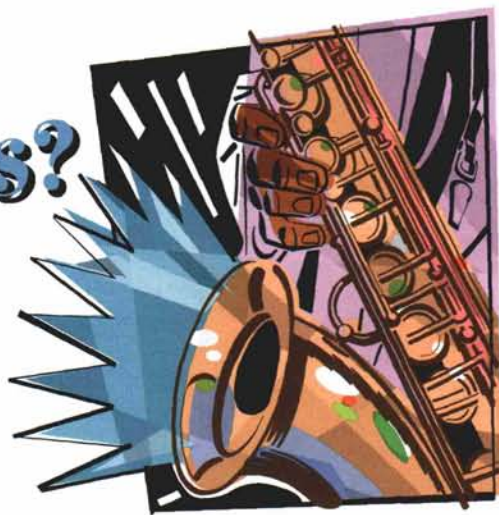
It's simple. If you want to make a difference, get involved. Whether you are at a private or public club, a nine- or 18-hole course, everyone has a different perspective to bring to the table. The fact is, the ones who get involved make the difference. The Board works closely together to make MAGCS a great organization for all its members.

So get involved today! Open the doors to new people and new possibilities.



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Tony Kalina's Team -N-



Tony's wife, Melora, and son, Andy.



PRAIRIE LANDING

Once again, Prairie Landing Golf Club and superintendent Tony Kalina will play host to the October MAGCS/ITF Combined Golf Day. Tony and PLGC last hosted this event on October 12, 1999. So needless to say, Tony's profile and mug appeared in these pages only four years ago. Tony reports that not much has changed since then, except he has a little less hair on top of his head. Tony and wife Melora have been happily married for 10 years and son Andrew is now seven years old. If you want to know more about Tony and Prairie Landing, go back and read the October '99 On Course "Super-N-Site" profile.



Key team members at Prairie Landing. From left to right, they are: Tony Nunes, technician; Jeff Pozen, first assistant; Kasey Vandeberg, second assistant; Rogelio Martinez, foreman; and Tony Kalina.

Instead of rehashing Tony's life story over again for this edition of "Super-N-Site," Tony himself requested instead a feature about his key staffers at Prairie Landing. Tony believes that you are only as good as your staff, and that it is much more important to devote time to their professional development than it is to promote yourself. Besides, Tony adds, you will actually reap just as many rewards from this approach anyway.

Here, then, is a brief introduction to Prairie Landing's team leaders: assistant superintendents Jeff Pozen and Kasey Vandeberg, foreman Rogelio Martinez and equipment technician Tony Nunes. Jeff is a Chicagoland native and a graduate of the University of Illinois, where he studied landscape architecture. Following graduation, Jeff worked for a year-and-a-half in the planning department at the Naperville Park District before taking a stab at his first golf course job—working on construction projects at Oak Brook Hills (Willowcrest G.C.) with Kerry Blatteau. Jeff also took some time off to travel to Ireland and study the traditional golf course architecture of the region. Jeff has his foursome lined up in a few years, since he and wife Jenny have three sons (Charlie—8 years, Max—5 and Sam—3). He joined the staff at Prairie Landing in 2000.

Kasey Vandeberg hails from Merrimack, WI, which is a small town northwest of Madison. He attended

(continued on page 8)

UW-River Falls and studied soil science with an eye on a career in agriculture. Kasey played golf and other sports as a kid growing up in America's Dairyland. Eventually, he decided he wanted to work on the golf side of the ag business to retain his sports interest as part of his career path. Following graduation from UW-River Falls, he took some post-graduate courses in turf management at UW-Madison with Dr. John Stier's guidance. Kasey got his first golf course working experience while in Madison, as an intern at Cherokee Country Club under the tutelage of superintendent George Magnin. Kasey came to Prairie Landing at the start of the 2002 season.

Crew foreman Rogelio Martinez has more than 20 years'



*Trying to hit no. 4 green in regulation?
This would be your third shot on this par 5.*



No. 8 green surrounds. The hole is a 386-yard par 4.

experience in golf turf maintenance. His father also worked in golf turf, at Carriage Greens G.C. in Darien, where Rogelio started working part-time in the clubhouse as a teenager. He then moved outside and worked for 17 years at Carriage Greens for superintendent Phil Bersin. Rogelio came to Prairie Landing three years ago to take the foreman's position. He is married and has three children ranging in age from 12 to 18 years.

Tony Nunes is in his sixth season as equipment technician at Prairie Landing. Before joining the Prairie Landing team, he worked at the Village Links of Glen Ellyn, where he received extensive knowledge and training from Pat and Tim Kelly. Tony enjoys working on turf as much as he likes working on tractors, and gets out on the course every chance he has.

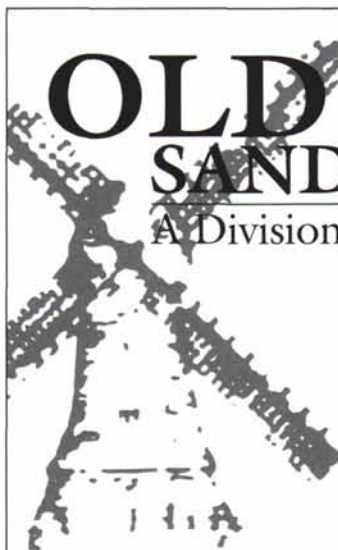
Tony Kalina and his teammates are very proud of the way that Prairie Landing looks, and more importantly, how it plays on a day-to-day basis. Their philosophy is to maintain the course with an eye on environmental stewardship while causing minimal interference or disturbance to nature. Tony and staff work hard

to educate golfers about turf management and Mother Nature, and try to eliminate common misconceptions about possible harmful effects of standard golf turf maintenance practices. Come by Prairie Landing for the ITF play-day on October 7 and see how they are doing!



Prairie Landing offers plenty of "wide open spaces." Here, no. 7 green is the culmination of a 598-yard par 5.





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