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# SEPTEMBER 2003

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Tim Davis and renowned Shoreacres host the September golf meeting and the MAGCS annual championship. Here, breathtaking hole no. 12. (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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# The Search Continues

*As president of the MAGCS, I am finding you really have to get accustomed to wearing a lot of different hats in guiding an organization such as this. My conclusions thus far include that trying to please everyone all the time is indeed an arduous task and an improbable goal. However, we continue to try. This year, on top of our considerable routine responsibilities, we have been faced with the unenviable challenge of hiring a new person to take over the deluge of duties delegated to our current executive secretary, George Minnis.*

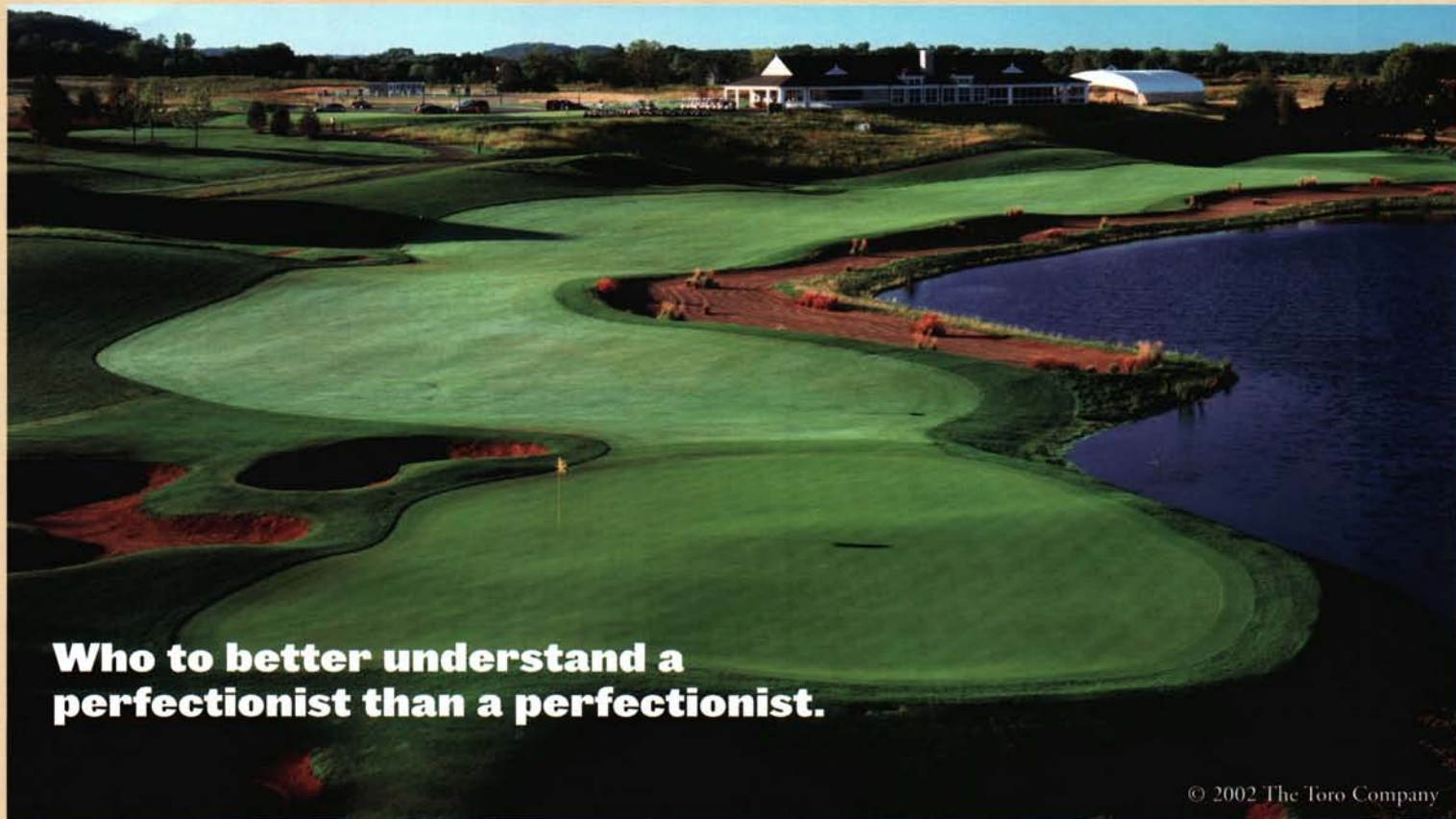
*As the MAGCS and the Illinois Turfgrass Foundation joined forces to find a new executive secretary, it became clear that an executive director was the role we were really seeking to fill.*

Since we began our search back in April of 2003, many things have happened. If you will recall, a couple of our original and primary objectives were to have a presence at the Midwest Golf House, and to join forces with another allied association. Those goals still remain, and the Illinois Turfgrass Foundation (ITF) has stepped up to join us in partnership. What did change from the time the first job announcement went out is the mindset of the MAGCS and ITF Boards of Directors about the actual position we are seeking to fill. It became quite apparent that to meet the needs of two growing associations, we would have to look beyond our current way of doing things. We decided we were no longer looking for someone to answer phones and do all the clerical work; rather, we need an individual to assist us in **managing** these two fine associations. With that notion, a general list of some of the responsibilities of the person we (the MAGCS and ITF) eventually hire may include:

- Plans, formulates and recommends for approval by the Board of Directors basic policies and programs that will further the objectives of our Association.
- Plans, organizes, directs and coordinates the programs and activities of the Association to ensure that objectives are attained, plans fulfilled and member needs met.
- Informs the Board of Directors of the conditions and operations of the Association, and on all important factors influencing them.
- Attends all Board meetings.
- Works with Executive Board in formulating annual budget and submits it to Board for approval.
- Makes purchases within the limits of the Board-approved budget and provides receipts and documentation of all expenses.
- Assumes responsibility for the planning, promotion and administration of the Association.
- Plans and executes all communications to the membership, including Web site updates.
- Assists in planning, organizing and directing membership promotion and retention programs.
- Maintains effective relationships with local, regional and national golf communities and organizations, with the media and with the local community.
- Manages the Association office in a professional, efficient manner and provides courteous, prompt service to all chapter members, callers and visitors.

*(continued on page 36)*





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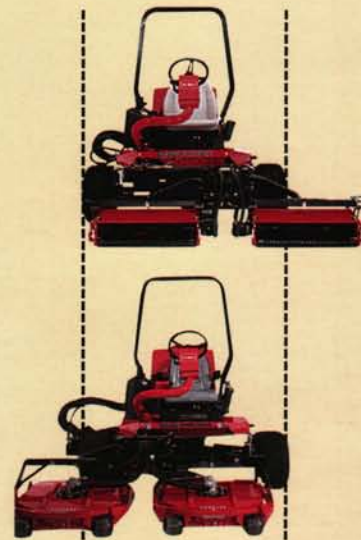
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# Leadership and Stewardship

*I have the dubious honor of being co-chairperson with Luke Cella of both the Membership and Environmental Committees. I inherited this position from Tim Anderson and Tim is the proverbial "tough act to follow," very professional in his approach as a committee chair.*

*The 2003 North American Bird Watching Open was more successful than the 2002 event, and hopefully will be even bigger next year. Out of a total 82 participating clubs nationwide, 15 were from the Chicagoland area! Congratulations to Dave Ward and crew at Olympia Fields Country Club in leading the nation with 94 birds identified.*

Membership comprises our future leadership, the backbone of this organization. You—the members—will set the tone for this organization, now and for years to come. Please don't forget our past leaders, retired members and past members because **they** made MAGCS history and laid the foundation for MAGCS future.

Membership tends to get our concerted attention from December through February, then fades to the background as the golf season gears up. Membership fees are due by January 15 each year; thank you to about 92% of our members for renewing on time. The other 8% will do better next year, right? Official membership stands at about 655 and mid-year updates should have arrived by the middle of August. If you didn't receive an update, let me know and I will take care of it. Membership took up a lot of my time during February and March, because I was making phone calls to ensure that members were renewing their memberships. So please inform your CPAs, accountants, bookkeepers and secretaries to keep an eye open for a renewal notice in November or December and process this before the holiday season.

Remember that if you as members need anything from any MAGCS committee, please feel free to contact me, Luke Cella or our executive secretary George Minnis. Speaking of George, a special thank-you to him for really managing the membership. George has made my job easier by keeping me informed, steering me in the right direction and being a confidante. Thanks! I also want to pass along a thank-you to all the new members who joined within the last year; hopefully you are enjoying the camaraderie and benefits the Midwest offers. Also, I would like to recognize the members who have attained 25-year status: Dave Behrman, Midlothian Country Club; Tim Davis, Shoreacres; Larry Joseph, Boylan Sales (retired); James Knulty, Big Foot Country Club; Mike Nass, Cantigny Golf; Tommy Robinson, Ravinia Green Country Club; and Steve Van Acker, Crystal Lake Country Club. Congratulations!

As far as overseeing the Environmental Committee goes, in this capacity I am always thinking about the superintendent's role as environmental steward. Environmental issues have ethical implications and widely impact the golf course and surrounding community, always posing new concerns and challenges.

I want to thank my Environmental Committee of Pete Leuzinger, Matt Kregel, Chad Kempf, Tim Anderson and Chuck Anfield—the real environ-

*(continued on page 38)*



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# Tim Davis -N-



## Shoreacres

ALL PHOTOS BY JIM TRZINSKI



Hole no. 4, a 372-yard par 4.

*Believe it or not, Tim Davis originally wanted to be golf pro, but was told that it would be much easier getting a job in the golf business as a superintendent. As such, Tim broke into the business working as a laborer at Plum Tree National. He recalls his first assignment under the late Peter Bilt when, during a single season, he planted 5,000 one-year-old Austrian pines in a nursery on the property. Before long, Tim went to work at Woodstock Country Club for Jim Nulty, a gentleman who would become his brother-in-law. There, Tim eventually became superintendent. In fact, he completed the final two semesters of his plant and soil science degree at Southern Illinois University over one winter while still performing some part-time duties as Woodstock's superintendent. Following graduation, Tim returned to a full-time superintendent role at Woodstock, where he stayed until 1984 and the move east to Shoreacres.*



Of all his years in the industry, it was Tim's first season at Shoreacres that he will never forget. He was forced to struggle through this season with a cast on his right leg as a result of rolling a triplex mower while cutting a fairway near one of Shoreacres' many ravines. Tim says that to this day, his employees still will not let him operate equipment!

As Tim sees it, a huge key to his operation's success is his assistant Rafael Arias, who has been at Shoreacres since July of 1986 and who, according to Tim, can "do it all." The biggest maintenance challenge for Tim, Rafael and the crew is the intensive hand-mowing and rotary work around the ravines found on 13 of Shoreacres' 18 holes.

This Harvard, IL and McHenry County native now resides in Mundelein with his wife, Jean. Tim and Jean will celebrate their 25th wedding anniversary later this year. They have two daughters currently attending college; the eldest, Erin, will be a junior at Carroll College in Waukesha, WI. She is a history major with dual minors in Spanish and education. Tim's youngest daughter, Vicki, will be a freshman majoring in marine biology at Florida Institute of Technology in Melbourne, FL. Tim's family also includes Chance, a stray dog he found on the golf course one Sunday morning some 13 years ago.

Hole no. 11 is  
a 378-yard par 4.

(continued on page 8)



Shoreacres is located on Lake Michigan in Lake Bluff. Known for its previously mentioned ravines, the private club was founded in 1916 as a golf and yacht club. Seth Raynor was hired to design the golf course and construction began in 1918 with the course opening in 1921. Shoreacres still possesses all of its original greens, which Tim has been working on for the past 12-13 years to recapture the lost putting-green area. He estimates that during his tenure, 50,000 square feet of putting-green space has been restored, along with a couple of lost bunkers. For the most part, Shoreacres now exists as it was originally laid out, and Tim doesn't expect any major changes in the future as the membership is dedicated to preserving their little piece of history along the lake.



Par-4 no. 13 plays to 332 yards.



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*Gorgeous no. 17 at Shoreacres is a 355-yard par 4.*





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