

ALBIE STAUDT

1919 – 2004



“Mr. President, I would like to make a motion . . .”

Albert “Albie” Joseph Staudt loved being a golf course superintendent! To know Albie was to love him. One of the “old guard” of the MAGCS, Albie touched so many lives in this industry. It was great to attend a monthly meeting and see so many members of our Association approach Albie, say hello and wish him well.

The stories about Albie are countless. Many will remember the times Albie and Bob Breen, Sr. would haul suitcases of booze up to the hospitality room at the national meeting. Could you imagine that today?! While working the room, Albie and Bob would often end up taking care of some of the younger members’ kids. Albie frequently told me that he and others would not get home “too early” from monthly meetings, fearing that their wives would think that this was the normal return time. Of course, many will remember Albie for his perpetual motion to dispense with the reading of the prior month’s meeting minutes. The following text is drawn from our club’s newsletter; I wrote this piece before Albie passed. It says a lot about him.

FAT AND SASSY . . .

Many of you might be wondering if I had too much eggnog over the holidays, starting out with those two words. Fear not! Those are the words spoken by one of my heroes. Albie Staudt, for the

last 20-plus years, has been like a father to me. He truly will go down in GGC history as one of the key characters in the story of the Geneva Golf Club. His devotion to your club will NEVER be matched!

TELL THEM WHERE YOU WAS . . . *another one of those Albieisms. Whether it was someone attending a party at the club or someone going out for a round of golf, Albie always made sure the member or guest had fun. He wanted everyone to enjoy themselves. Many people have come and gone through the GGC, but Albie has always been the one constant. He has a heart of gold and although at times seems rough around the edges, he always has the club’s best interests in mind. What is amazing about Albie is that many of the current members are sons and daughters of club members that Albie started working for some 40-plus years ago!*


HURRY BACK . . . *yes, another phrase of Albie’s, but this one could be heard around the bar area. Albie has this knack of knowing what everyone (and I do mean everyone) drank! Albie oftentimes would have someone’s drink poured and waiting for them if he saw a member he knew walk into the room. You can’t find that on the Internet, folks.*

DAMN ALBIE . . . *could be heard throughout the golf course on any*

given day. Albie was always the person to blame for a golfer who missed a putt. Years ago, Albie not only tended to the golf course, but he also ran the pro shop and the clubhouse. A great story I heard from one of my equipment salesmen involves the day he had stopped to see Albie. It so happened that Albie was checking on the pro shop when little “Mary Sue” came running out of the ladies’ locker room with her swimsuit around her ankles. Albie reaches down, pulls up the suit and taps the child on the butt. Albie “Babysitter” Staudt to the rescue!

Today’s ever-changing world does not allow for a lot of “Albies.” The Geneva Golf Club has been very fortunate to have had Albie around. While talking to Jim Styka before the holidays, he commented (and I agreed) on how a lot of members may not and will never know the “old Albie.” That’s too bad. I know that many people would have loved Albie in his “prime.” Fat and sassy—yes you were, Albie, but I kind of like ONE OF A KIND!

“Mr. President . . . I make the motion that Albie rest in peace.”

So moved! 



Ed Braunsky and Albie.

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OSHA

John Ekstrom *Cantigny Golf*

Can't This Project Wait Until It Gets Warmer?

Have you ever been working outdoors in the cold temperatures and asked yourself that very question?

No matter what time of year it is, projects exist that can be done to improve the golf course. However, Mother Nature will always have the final say. If the decision comes down that the project cannot wait and you need to brave the elements, you need to be equipped with the correct information on how to stay warm.

In a recent Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) press release, OSHA asks all employers and employees to take proper precautions to prevent and treat cold-related injuries. OSHA specifies the construction, fishing and agriculture industries as some that particularly call for these safety measures. Tips include:

- Train all employees about cold-weather illnesses and/or injuries.
- Try to recognize the working and environmental conditions that may be hazardous.
- If possible, schedule work in the warmest part of the day.
- Encourage workers to dress in layers for all conditions; layers can be altered depending on the changing weather.
- Take short, frequent breaks in warm, enclosed areas.
- The body needs energy to stay warm, so do not work to the point of exhaustion.
- Eat warm, high-calorie and carbohydrate dishes to maintain energy levels, e.g., pasta.
- Avoid drinks that contain caffeine, e.g., coffee, soda, hot chocolate.
- Use the buddy system.

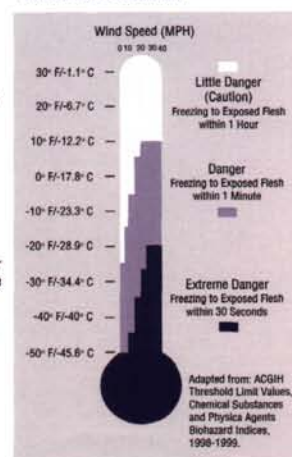
Finally, OSHA reminds us that workers with cardiovascular disease or any other health issues face greater risks of cold-related injuries.

THE COLD STRESS EQUATION

**LOW TEMPERATURE + WIND SPEED + WETNESS
= INJURIES & ILLNESS**

When the body is unable to warm itself, serious cold-related illnesses and injuries may occur, and permanent tissue damage and death may result.

Hypothermia can occur when land temperatures are above freezing or water temperatures are below 98.6°F/37°C. Cold-related illnesses can slowly overcome a person who has been chilled by low temperatures, brisk winds, or wet clothing.



Prolonged exposure to cold temperatures can lead to conditions such as frostbite and/or hypothermia. Note the chart, which explains how long it takes given the temperature and wind speed for exposed flesh to become frozen. Furthermore, exposure to water in these situations worsens the circumstances. Danger signs in these instances include: slurred speech, uncontrolled shivering, fatigue and confused behavior. If you observe these signs in yourself or a coworker, seek medical attention immediately.

Safety and health add value to business, to the workplace and to life. Remember, **SAFETY FIRST!**

References:

29 Code of Federal Regulations
1910 – General Industry

OSHA Web Site – www.osha.gov

Lecture Notes. Dr. Gary Erisman –
Illinois State University

U.S. Department of Labor
Occupational Safety and Health Administration
OSHA 3156
1998

the Bull Sheet

John Gurke, CGCS
Contributing Editor

DATES TO REMEMBER

February 12-13 — MAGCS Hospitality Suite at the Marriott Marina Hotel in San Diego, CA. Details follow.

February 23-26 — Indiana-Illinois Turfgrass Short Course at the Holiday Inn in Willowbrook, IL. Yep—details follow.

February 24-25 — 22nd Annual Southern Illinois Grounds Maintenance School and Trade Show at the Gateway Convention Center in Collinsville, IL. See above about the details thing.

February 25 — “Couch Talk” seminar at Midwest Golf House featuring keynote speaker Houston Couch of Virginia Tech.

February 26 — Annual Assistant Superintendent Workshop at Midwest Golf House in Lemont, IL. Read on for the scoop.

March 10 — MAGCS monthly meeting at Midwest Golf House in Lemont.

March 12 — “Time Off In Illinois: State and Federal Laws On Employee Leave, Vacations and Holidays” seminar at the DoubleTree Suites in Downers Grove, IL. Call 715-833-3959 for registration information.

First, let's get all that stuff in *Dates to Remember* ironed out . . .

The MAGCS Hospitality Suite will be held on the evenings of February 12th and 13th at the Marriott Marina Hotel in San Diego. Hours of operation will be from 6:00 to 10:00 p.m. each night. Look for a few new twists to this popular annual bash, including

a sign-in table staffed by MAGCS volunteers (and feel free to call **Sylvia Lima** to volunteer for a half-hour stint). This new feature will help keep track of the number of people who attend, as well as facilitate a couple of raffles for attendees to have the chance of winning big cash and tremendous prizes. Another new addition to the party will be a continually looping PowerPoint slide show highlighting all of the generous contributors who not only made the room possible, but also helped make the 2003 meetings and golf events so successful. On tap as well: a special tribute to our own **Dan Quast**, CGCS, winner of GCSAA's Distinguished Service Award. Be there!

The Indiana-Illinois Turfgrass Short Course, sponsored by the Illinois Turfgrass Foundation and the Midwest Regional Turf Foundation, will be held February 23-26, returning to the Willowbrook Holiday Inn this year. Its objective is to provide basic information on turfgrass management, soils, fertility and pest management to those who are employed or considering employment in the golf course industry. For questions, or to register, call Bev Bratton at 765-494-8039 or **Tom Voigt** at 217-333-7847.

As for the 22nd Annual Southern Illinois Grounds Maintenance School and Trade Show, well that's a horse of another color altogether. This two-day seminar (February 24-25) is being held at the Gateway Convention Center in Collinsville, IL, and is sponsored by the University of Illinois Extension, Southern Illinois Nursery Association, Southern Illinois Golf Course Superintendents Association, Southern Illinois Grounds Maintenance Association and the Illinois Parks and Recreation Association (who knew there were so many?). This bad boy features seminars on just about everything you wanted to know about the Green Industry, including new

courses on computer training and several courses offered in Spanish. For information, call 618-692-7700.

The Annual Assistant Superintendent Workshop will take place at Midwest Golf House (popular place in the winter months, eh?) on February 26 from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. This event is targeted towards assistant superintendents (thus the clever name), but is open to any interested party (with \$25 and a coat and tie), and is another example of the truly great work being done by the Class C Advisory Committee. This committee, created during **Kevin DeRoo's** presidency, was implemented to give the assistant superintendent a voice in the Association at the Board level, and to create various events for the further betterment of its namesake constituency. **Chad Kempf** of Hinsdale Golf Club has recently taken over the Class C advisor's position on the MAGCS Board, replacing **Erwin McKone**, who resigned his post due to his new position as director of golf at Briar Ridge Country Club in Schererville, IN. Chad has been an active MAGCS member, serving on numerous committees and contributing to this magazine on several occasions; now, he's taken the reins of his Board post and primary responsibility for running this event. The theme of the day will be “Making the Next Step—IT'S UP TO YOU!” and it will feature speakers with vital knowledge on the subject, including Jim McGoughlin—“Strategic Career Planning,” Kevin DeRoo—“MAGCS Board Operations Q and A,” and **Mike Bavier**, CGCS, **Jon Jennings**, CGCS and **Todd Schmitz**—“Expectations Between the Superintendent and the Assistant.” Space is limited to the first 100 registrants, so sign up quickly. And a hearty congratulations and best wishes to Chad on his appointment.



Chad Kempf.

(continued on page 28)



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The March MAGCS monthly meeting, to be held on the 10th at Golf House (again), will feature a seminar from the GCSAA's Superintendent Leadership Series titled "Managing Up: Strategies for Influencing Boards, Committees and Managers" and presented by Robert Sexon. As of this date, it is expected to be a full-day seminar worth 0.7 education points.

.....
 Congratulations to Tiffany and **Paul Yerkes** (Lesco) on the birth of their son, Jake Paul, on January 5. Jake was a big 'un, entering the world at 8 lb. 11 oz. and 21.5 inches long. Everyone is doing great, and dad finally has his wish—a son to carry on the family name (which, of course, translates to "SNIP" for dad).



*Proud papa Paul with
 (L to R) Maddie, Jake and Haleigh.*

.....
 MAGCS is proud to announce that no fewer than 16 of its members have volunteered to serve on GCSAA committees for this year, ensuring that we have a BIG voice in the piloting of the national craft. Recently beamed up to the Mother Ship were **Luke Cella, CGCS, Don Cross, CGCS, Dan Dinelli, CGCS, Don Ferreri, Jon Jennings, CGCS, Patrick Sisk, CGCS, Steve Van Acker, CGCS, Joe Vargas, Ph.D., James Watson, Ph.D., Bruce Williams, CGCS, Robert Williams and Tommy Witt, CGCS.** We salute your dedication, and wish you all a smooth flight.

.....
 "Mr. President, I move we dispense with the reading of the minutes." This sentence is heard at every type of board meeting throughout the world, but no one person has said it more than our beloved **Albie Staudt**. As most everyone knows, Albie lost his long battle with cancer on January 4

You know, few things in our professional lives are more satisfying than seeing our "kids grow up" so to speak, or in other words, seeing our assistants go on to successful careers as golf course superintendents. This is what makes being a golf course superintendent such a great thing—the ability to mold, to influence and to teach, with the hopes that one day our efforts will be rewarded with the knowledge that we have helped to develop responsible, professional gentlemen and ladies who will do us proud in the industry, and carry our legacy forward . . .



*Todd Schmitz and Derek Florian, former assistants
 at Prairie Landing G.C. and Aurora C.C.*

One day **Tony Kalina** and I will have that feeling . . . Not yet, but one day.

—a week after his son-in-law John Ott lost a similar battle. In the MAGCS family, Albie and this sentence were synonymous; no single member of this Association has contributed more (by hurrying business meetings along through the uttering of this line) than he. We will all miss Albie's presence at our monthly meetings—his infectious sunny outlook, his "unique" approach to the game of golf, and of course, his motions to dispense with the reading of the minutes. Rest in peace, old friend.

.....
Garry Anderson of Arthur Clesen Inc. received some great news recently—his father, Mel, was honored with the Heart of America Superintendents Association's Lifetime Achievement Award. The association presented the award to the elder Anderson at its annual Christmas party, and as a further surprise, Garry was in attendance unbeknownst to his dad. Both gentlemen were past presidents of the association, and both are to be congratulated.

Condolences go out to the family and friends of **John Krutilla, CGCS** of Janesville Country Club on the recent passing of his father, John Sr., on December 22.

.....
 Mark this down: Arthur Clesen Inc. has moved its South Side warehouse to the hotbed of warehouse activity—Mokena, IL. The new state-of-the-Art (get it?) facility boasts one-half an acre of area under its roof, and will hold a grand opening the week of March 15. MAGCS members are encouraged to stop on by and enjoy the food, fun and excitement. Call LeAnn Scott at 847-537-2177 for directions.

.....
 If you ever lose a tree that was in the "perfect" place, or that was special in some way, **Doug Davis** of Flagg Creek G.C. has just the answer for you—have the stump converted into art. Doug hired chainsaw sculptor Scott Cochrane of Northern Exposure to fashion these eagles from a

(continued on page 28)

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.....
 Congratulations to Danny Quast, CGCS on winning GCSAA's Distinguished Service Award. Dan will receive the prestigious award in San Diego at the Opening Session of the 75th International Golf Course Conference and Show on February 12. Dan joins an ever-increasing list of MAGCS members to receive this award, and it couldn't have come to a nicer guy—bravo, Danny!



Dan Quast.

.....
 Congratulations to another group of 25-year members: **Don Cross**, CGCS of Skokie C.C.; **John DenBow** of Ledges G.C.; **Dave Fisher**, CGCS of Park Hills G.C.; and **Chris Smith**, CGCS of Conserv FS.

.....
 Remember! March 31 is the deadline to submit 2004 MAGCS Scholarship applications. Call Luke Cella for details.

.....
 Condolences to Tess and **Hank Wilkinson** (University of Illinois) on the recent passing of Tess' mother after a long illness. MAGCS sends its heartfelt sympathies to the Wilkinson family on their loss.

Welcome to our newest members: **Leo Pechette** of River Road C.C. in Kentucky; **Dan Howard** of Master of the Links; **Dan O'Brien** of Newburg Village G.C. in Cherry Valley, IL; **Aaron Easter** of Bartlett Hills G.C.;



Aaron Easter.

Robert Graziano of Cary C.C.; and



Robert Graziano.

Scott Harris of Harris Yamaha Chicago Golf Cars.



Scott Harris.

.....
 Word from our own turfgrass advisor, **Dr. Randy Kane**: "The USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) has advised the public that it has received a petition from the Scotts Company and Monsanto seeking determination of nonregulated status for Roundup Ready Creeping Bentgrass (Federal Register Vol. 69, No. 2; Jan. 5, 2004). APHIS is seeking public comment on whether RRCB presents a plant pest risk, and to what extent the introduction of this modified grass will have on the environment. APHIS will be accepting public comment, in the form of a 'snail mail' letter or an e-mail, until March 5, 2004. E-mail comments must be addressed to regulations@aphis.usda.gov with the docket #03-101-1 appearing in the

subject line. The comment, including your name and address, must be contained in the body of the e-mail; do not send attached files. Randy Kane at the CDGA has more information on this subject, and can assist in formulating comments if you would like assistance."

.....
 Sunset Ridge C.C. is looking for an assistant superintendent. Call **Dennis Wilson** at 847-446-5268 or send your resume to his attention at 1984 Sunset Ridge Road, Northfield, IL 60093.

EQUIPMENT FOR SALE:

.....
 1995 John Deere 3215A Fairway Mower, well-maintained in good running and mowing condition with 1,375 hours. Call Tim or Scott at Golf Creations and make an offer—815-923-1868.

.....
 1968 Massey-Ferguson LGC gas tractor in good condition. Runs well, has new rubber and PTO works. \$1,500 and negotiable, call **Ed Fischer**, CGCS at 847-432-6276. Ed is also selling his Harley—a 2000 Heritage. Interested parties, call Ed and make a generous offer.

.....
 1988 Jacobsen LF-100 and 1990 Jacobsen LF-100, with 3,065 and 3,045 hours respectively. Both in good running and mowing condition. 1989 Jacobsen Tri King 1671 gas model with 4,123 hours, usable. Call John at Aurora C.C. at 630-892-3600.

.....
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.....
 For sale: Chipper 3-pt. PTO hook-up, \$2,100; Blower GIANT VAC 3-pt. PTO hook-up, like new, \$2,500; MOTT 72 Flailmaster, 3-pt. PTO, \$900. Call Mike or Brian at Inverness Golf Club, 847-358-7030





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The issue is value and selection. We can be thankful you can't play golf over the Internet – yet.

How does this affect the way we do business?

Unless you are fortunate enough to work for a club where price is no object, you have been asked to look for ways to cut costs—if not, you will be. Like it or not, we are management (yikes), and a golf course is a business (double yikes); there are times I dread good weather and abundant rainfall because memories are short (remember 1995—sort of) and it doesn't take a lot of creativity to keep the mowers sharp and the staff sober. There are times I wish for a “hard” year just to remind everyone how difficult it is to play a bad hand (usually that yearning goes away quickly).

We stand on the shoulders of the people who make it happen—our crews. I have been blessed to work with a fine staff that are reliable, conscientious and hard-working. I merely hint at the need to stay late or come in early and it happens. Yes, I know I'm lucky, but it doesn't change the fact that not making income projections for the past several years has brought uncomfortable scrutiny to the way we maintain the golf course. We are in the service business and labor is the largest expense. Nobody I know has guys hanging on hooks waiting for something to do. So when the hard assignment of cutting costs without reducing services is sent down the pipeline, go ahead and scream and shout, stamp your feet and bemoan your fate, but do so in private. Be ready to point out the consequences that certain actions would precipitate, and be thankful that you have the opportunity to make your case.

Most golfers (and even some of our bosses) have little idea of what it takes to prepare the golf course for a day of play. Like making sausage, they don't want to see it happen; they just want the finished product. Even more, a good maintenance staff does their work unobtrusively. We have been trained to flit around the golf course like ghosts, desperately avoiding

human contact because players don't like to see or hear the sausage getting made. We need to change that. I'm not saying we need to jump out of the bushes and shout “Look at me working hard for you!” But it's easier to look at numbers on a spreadsheet with a red pencil when they don't have faces (and families) attached to them. We need to aggressively market our operations. It's no longer enough to let our work speak for itself. If you believe that, you are being naïve. Don't forget that the graveyard is filled with indispensable people.

I would strongly suggest that one of the first things you do next season is have a greens committee meeting (or your equivalent) at your maintenance facility, invite your staff (all of them preferably), show off some equipment old and new, and trot out whatever new wrinkle you're going to add (or delete) from your routine. In other words—step up! Decision-makers rely on managers for inputs that drive “business decisions.” Don't let the hammer hit because you were “on the course” when it came down.

One other thing, I want to offer my sincerest congratulations to Danny Quast for receiving the GCSAA Distinguished Service Award. In his time with us at Medinah, Danny was a mentor to many of our best and brightest. Who could ever forget the consummate professionalism he embodied when he faced

*... there are times
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and the staff sober.*

the harsh and glaring spotlight of the media and several prima donna touring pros when Tiger Woods won the PGA Championship in 1999. Danny could have made excuses about some of the worst July and August weather you can imagine, or blamed the fact that critical turf management decisions were made by people who had no business intruding, but he chose the high road.

Mr. Quast, you are a stand-up guy—congratulations.



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