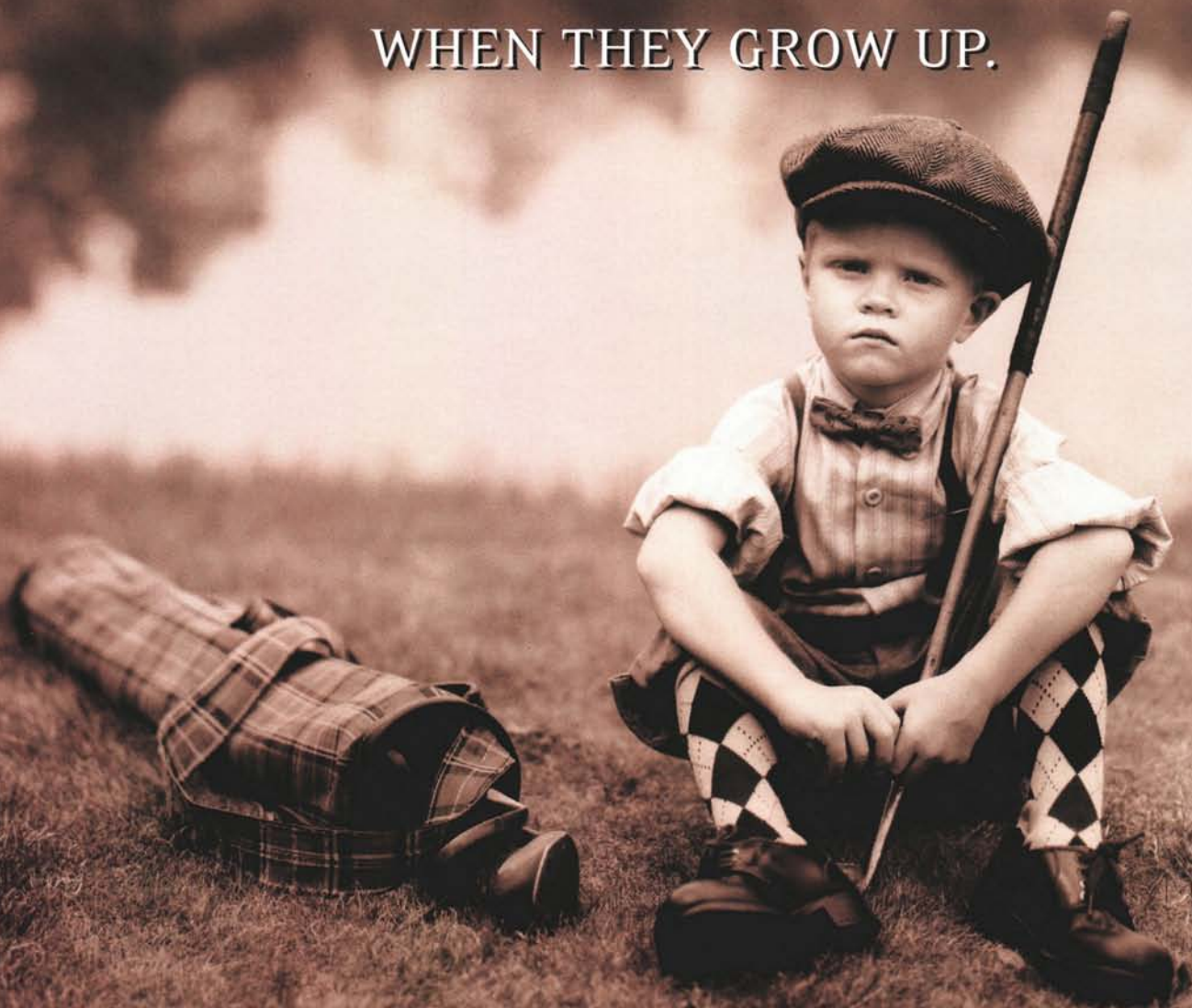


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FRONT COVER

The 2004 MAGCS Board of Directors and staff.

Front row (L to R): executive director Luke Cella; secretary/treasurer Gary Hearn, Salt Creek G.C.; president Fred Behnke, Mount Prospect G.C.; vice president Phil Zeinert, Elgin C.C.; commercial representative Sylvia Lima, Prime Turf.

Back row (L to R): director Tony Kalina, Prairie Landing G.C.; director Tim Anderson, Prestwick C.C.; director Scott Speiden, Itasca C.C.; director Scott Witte, Cantigny G.C.; *On Course* contributing editor John Gurke, Aurora C.C.; president emeritus Kevin DeRoo, Bartlett Hills G.C.; class C representative Erwin McKone, Briar Ridge C.C.; and director Dave Braasch, Glen Erin G.C. Not pictured: director Paul Bastron, Glen Flora C.C. and *On Course* editor Cathy Miles Ralston.

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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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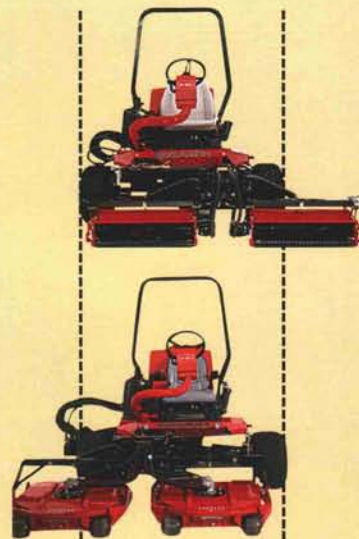
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Success on Tap

I was taking a spin through the MAGCS Directory the other day and I was a bit dismayed at the number of names I didn't know. Despite a somewhat lengthy tenure on the MAGCS Board of Directors and attending at least half of the monthly meetings for the last 15 years, I haven't had the opportunity to meet a seemingly large segment of the membership. It occurred to me that if I didn't know someone, they in turn probably didn't know me (pretty sharp thinking, huh). Anyway, I'm the MAGCS president this year and I got to thinking about the best way to introduce myself to those of you who don't know me.

I haven't had an original thought in my life.

I learned early on that if I were going to amount to anything I would need help, so my best work is "borrowed" from others. I have one talent—the ability to dial a telephone and ask for help. For me, the MAGCS Directory is the yellow pages for success (or at least, longevity). I've been able to endure in this profession because of a circle of fellow golf course superintendents who are willing to share their expertise with me. Because of them, I've been able to work smarter, not harder. So, to know me is to know them, and here they are . . . Oh, by the way, in the interest of protecting the innocent, instead of naming names I've decided to refer to my confidantes by the one thing we have in common—a genuine respect for beer.

Heineken is a guy who takes care of a beautiful private club located on the North Shore. He is probably the most analytical of my phone tree. When I have a thorny issue to solve, he's the best bet for examining the issue and identifying remedial measures. His science is solid and he's very organized. I have to temper his input with the fact that I don't have his seemingly limitless resources, but he's a good place to start.

Busch is the best grass-grower I know. As Bob Dylan says, "His clothes are dirty but his hands are clean . . ."; well, his hands are dirty too, but nobody has a greater sensitivity for the importance of timing and he plays the weather like a magician. I will go out of my way to go past his course in the morning just to see what he's up to and as often as not, we end up doing the same thing that day.

Budweiser is the nuts-and-bolts guy. He has a small public course on a limited budget and he's the superintendent/spray tech/ irrigation tech/ mechanic. He keeps the shop immaculate and refers to all his equipment by model number (i.e., 223D or BL2000). I always have to interrupt him to ask what the machine does or I get lost. He claims he gets three years out of a bed-knife and I tell him he's full of it, but if anyone could, it's him. He's the guy to go to for the scoop on new iron.

(continued on page 4)

I've been able to endure in this profession because of a circle of fellow golf course superintendents who are willing to share their expertise with me. Because of them, I've been able to work smarter, not harder.

Corona with lime is the communicator. His gig is upscale public at a c-note for 18 holes. His course runs golf carts with GPS, leather seats and a mini-bar. He drives an SUV that he replaces every three years on the golf course's dime. He has the gift of being able to explain away dead turf in straight lines as an "act of God." I've needed him more than I care to admit.

Zima is the medicine man. He's young, handsome, has a wife earning six figures, and is therefore not easy to like, but he knows the new chemicals, PGRs and bio-thingies better than the guys selling them. He took a liking to my plant-protectant bid package so I let him use it providing he adds the new stuff and gives me the skinny on what's hot and what's snake oil. Heck, all I have to do is pull it up on my computer and e-mail it to him every winter. The down side is listening to him complain about the difficulties of living on 175K with no kids. It's a considerable down side.

Last and certainly not least, Lite is my compadre, a fellow muni operator. We both drive in excess of 50,000 rounds a year through our tracks. When I want to cry about cart traffic, ball marks and divots, he gets a call. He knows the park district business; bids, IEPA, IDOT, POs, RFPs, NOIs, BS, etc. We help each other through the paperwork and often submit each other's work as our own. I get more from him than he gets from me because I also have Corona with lime in my corner.

You'll be reading about all of us throughout the year. I hope you'll find us informative, or at least amusing. I hope to add a few more brands to the bar as the year progresses.

I guess that if there is a "President's Message" somewhere in here, it's that MAGCS is all about people. The strength of any association is in a shared purpose and the willingness of its members to contribute to its suc-

cess. We are all pulled in many directions: family, faith, work and community. Sometimes it seems like our lives are like the guy on the old "Ed Sullivan Show" who would spin plates on sticks, running around the stage catching and spinning the plates just before they would fall.

I'll bet you could add one more plate to your act.

Join a committee, host a meeting, write an article for *On Course*. Give me a call—I'll be happy to help you get started. I guarantee you'll get more than you give.

Have a happy, safe and prosperous new year!

By the way, I'm MGD.



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Can You Hear Me Now? It's Been Taken Care Of

The above "play on words" of a cell-phone company's recent TV advertisement describes the way a lot of the past presidents of the Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents feel about the present state of the MAGCS.

It has been amazing to see how quickly the Board has been able to act on the Past Presidents Council's suggestions . . . the list of suggestions coming out of the past presidents' annual meeting keeps getting smaller and smaller.

First, some background. I was asked last year to be the chairman of the Past Presidents Council by the now Past President Kevin "I Never Miss a Meeting" DeRoo. At first, I thought, "Piece of cake." The prior chairman was Joel Purpur, who did a fantastic job of organizing the Council and running our meetings. As I started to plan for a meeting in 2003, I realized that I would be eating the whole cake. Joel had a plan that has been continued into this past year. For those of you who do not know, the Past Presidents Council meets at least once a year. The current MAGCS president is also invited to attend the meeting. Our new executive director, Luke Cella, will be asked to attend the meetings too.


The agenda for the day consists of going over the activities of every committee of the MAGCS. That's where the Board of Directors has listened to the past presidents' voices, loud and clear. It has been amazing to see how quickly the Board has been able to act on the Past Presidents Council's suggestions. For example, some concerns had come up about the way the hospitality suite at the national meeting has been taken advantage of by folks who have nothing to do with our Association. Problem solved. This year's room in San Diego will have a check-in desk that will monitor who goes in and out of the room.

The passing of our friend George Minnis left a big hole to fill, and quickly. The past presidents were concerned about who could take over for George. A lot of us on the Council feel that the hiring of Luke Cella was the right move to make. Taking full advantage of the facilities at Midwest Golf House is an exciting prospect for the future of the MAGCS.

The Council also talks about the state of the GCSAA. We are very fortunate to have Bob Maibusch on board to use as a sounding board with concerns or comments about the GCSAA. We will surely give Bob a list of any concerns we have this year.

As a member of the MAGCS, you can help make the Council's future meetings run more smoothly by becoming active. Get involved! Join a committee or offer your facility as a site for a monthly meeting. Run for the Board. The staff and current Board of Directors can only do so much.

I have stated before that the list of suggestions coming out of the past presidents' annual meeting keeps getting smaller and smaller. It takes a lot of time and commitment by a group of very special and talented people to get the job done. All of the past presidents have dedicated that time and made that commitment. The Board of Directors of the MAGCS realizes that the Past Presidents Council keeps a watchful eye on the way the Association is running. Never before has the MAGCS had the opportunity to become one of the strongest associations in the nation. Now we do.

Can you hear me now? I knew you could! Thanks to all, and have a great 2004. 



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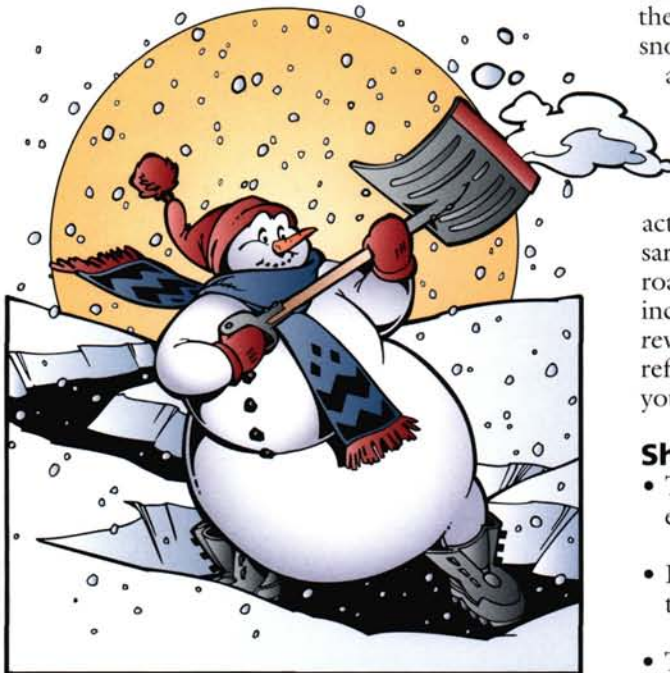
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Safe Snow-Removal Procedures



Editor's Note: The information in this article comes from the Park District Risk Management Agency, as well as the Web sites referenced on page 9.

The winter months, with the accompanying snow, ice and cold, are here. Prior to the onset of the first heavy snowfall would be a good time to begin preparation for dealing with these winter-weather elements by reviewing and checking your facilities' snow-removal equipment and staff procedures in order to minimize the chance for accidents resulting in injury or property damage.



Staff perform a variety of jobs when preparing for the inclement conditions of winter. These jobs traditionally require the use of various tools (shovels, salt-spreaders, snowblowers, snowplows and sweepers) and take place at all hours of the day and night. It is important that training take place with all staff who will perform these jobs. Back-safety reminders, along with slip, trip and fall prevention training, are needed for those employees using manual tools. Driver training, equipment operations and "dry run" activities that address the plans for removal of snow are necessary for staff who will be plowing and salting your parking lots, roads and pathways. Since staff have not operated under inclement weather conditions for at least nine months, a review of these tools and operations will provide excellent refresher training and will help to keep your facilities open and your staff and patrons healthy.

Shoveling Tips

- Those over the age of 40 or who are relatively inactive should exercise caution.
- If you have a heart condition, consider alternative activities to shoveling.
- Take it slowly. Shoveling, like lifting weights, will elevate your heart rate and blood pressure.

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- Stretch and warm up prior to beginning to shovel.
 - Use ergonomically-altered shovels to assist weight distribution and proper lifting positions.
 - Push the snow as you shovel and do not overfill the shovel.
 - *Do not work to the point of exhaustion!* Make sure to take breaks and stretch as the task continues.
 - Dress warmly and in layers. Do not forget to protect body parts that are exposed to the elements.
- Snowblower Tips**
- Have all equipment inspected and tuned up prior to the season.
 - Participate in in-service training with the equipment prior to the season. Make sure to cover fueling procedures, equipment operation and emergency procedures.
 - Never stick your hand into the shoot or blade section of the blower when clogged!
 - Review tie-down procedures when transporting on a trailer.
 - Take rest breaks when necessary.
 - Walk the areas to be cleared to observe any obstacles that might cause problems or concerns.
 - Never discharge snow in the direction of traffic, patrons or staff.
 - Wear hearing protection and eye protection when operating.
 - Dress warmly and in layers. Do not forget to protect body parts that are exposed to the elements.
- Brushing and Plowing Tips**
- Have all equipment inspected and tuned up prior to the season.
 - Participate in in-service training with the equipment prior to the season. Make sure to cover fueling procedures, call-in procedures, clearing routes, equipment operation and emergency procedures, and perform hands-on training in a controlled setting.
 - When traveling to a location, position blade angled to the right (towards the curb) so it will not catch on curbs or obstructions. Also position the blade at a height to not block the headlights or turn signals.
 - Turn off plow control panel when traveling to a new site to prevent accidental operation.
 - Prior to snowfall, walk through the applicable routes and determine the priority of each location. Also determine where the snow is to be plowed and check for any obstacles that will be hidden.
 - Always wear a seatbelt and never plow with your head outside the window.

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- Make sure to adjust the plow shoes to the appropriate height for the surface you will be clearing.
- Always inspect the equipment prior to each use and document this inspection.
- Start to perform the task feeling physically and mentally fit. Watch for signs of fatigue. Staring at the snow can have a hypnotizing effect on the operator. Make sure to take breaks; get out of the vehicle to walk around and stay alert.
- Before leaving the vehicle, set the brakes, disengage the power to the spreader and allow the vehicle to idle for at least ten minutes to allow the transmission cooler the time to cool the transmission fluid.



References

www.usroads.com
www.bossplows.com
www.nsc.org
www.cl.louisvilleco.us/Public_Works/snow_removal.htm

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