



Editorial Committee chair Scott Witte shows off the award presented to On Course at the Chapter Newsletter Editors Session.



Wally Fuchs, Fred Behnke and Nick Hongisto.



Don Ferreri, Ed Braunsky and Luke Cella.



Mike O'Neill with Robyn and Bob Kohlstedt—Bob was the lucky winner of Prime Turf's Callaway driver raffle on the Show floor.



The Huber clan—Jim, Ann and John.



Kurt and Cindy Galisdorfer with Rick and Tammy Bowden.



Jan Fischer and DeeAnn Leuzinger keep the photographer on his feet.



Sylvia Lima describes to Dave Nadler just how big the sandwich she had for lunch really was.

(continued on page 42)

The Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents

Family Tree

The Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents has preserved its current and past members in this historical document. The document is called the Midwest Family Tree. The information contained in the pages represents many years and many people who have come before. The Midwest Family Tree is a record of each golf course in our region and the Greenkeepers and Golf Course Superintendents who have cared for them. This document is simply a list of names and dates of tenures; however, the works and accomplishments of the individual people represented in this compilation are vast.

The Midwest Family Tree is a living document and changes are recorded. The Midwest Family Tree is part of the MAGCS membership directory; not only does each member own a copy of the document, but every member Superintendent also represents a branch of our Family Tree.



This year's rendition of GCSAA's International Golf Course Conference and Show included the new Idea Fair display. This area showcased the innovations and "thinking outside the box" that participating chapters demonstrated in 2003, and MAGCS was proud to take part by displaying its new Family Tree to which many of our members contributed. Special thanks to all who made it possible, and to Luke Cella for putting the display together.

What Is Leadership?

Editor's Note: Warmest thanks to Bob Williams for initiating this column. Bob is now passing the torch to a group of MAGCS senior superintendents, who will author this column on a rotating basis. Look for it bimonthly in On Course.

Early in my career I learned from some great mentors. There was Dr. Ken Payne at Michigan State University, Bob Williams at Bob O'Link Golf Club and Bruce Sering at Glen View Club. All of these fellows were great leaders and I learned much from their leadership styles. It was evident that they had the skills to steer the ship in the right direction.

Five Skills of Effective Leaders

• Communication

Great leaders communicate their position well. All those around them know where they are coming from. You cannot over-communicate. Keep all those around you informed.

• Interviewing

Great leaders surround themselves with great people. They know how to ask the right questions and do the right background work to assemble a successful team.

• Observation

This area of leadership would include being a superb listener. Listen to what the golfers, staff, industry, etc. have to say. You need to observe not only by listening but also by watching. Be visible on your golf course. Find people doing something right and let them know it.

• Negotiating

Understand how to negotiate win-win situations. Work toward compromise when solving problems. Pick your battles; don't win the battle and lose the war.


• Sharing Recognition

Finally, sharing rewards and recognition with peers and staff is a hallmark of leadership. Celebrate successes! You wouldn't be successful without those who surround you. Let them know how important is the role they play.

Great leaders share the common thread of being able to visualize and create a vision for the future. They communicate that vision to those around them. They are very capable

of making good decisions and giving appropriate directions. They do the right things. They realize that those around them have contributed to their success and recognize them accordingly.

When we think of leaders, it is easy to come up with names of coaches, CEOs and elected representatives. However, we must remember

that each and every one of us is a leader in our own right. We lead our own teams (staff). All of the aforementioned skills are important to each and every superintendent. It may be true that these skills don't come easy to all, but they will come if you work at them! 



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