

RAIN BIRD®

&

HYDROLogic®

Water Management Systems

**A PERFECT
PAIR!**

contact:
Scott Pace
630-921-4121
or
Kevin West
708-341-1687

FREEDOM-Pad





2004 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT

Fred Behnke, Mount Prospect G.C.
Home: 773-774-1486, Office: 847-632-9331
E-mail: fbehnke@juno.com

VICE PRESIDENT

Phil Zeinert, Elgin C.C.
Home: 815-748-5730, Office: 847-622-4823
E-mail: Zeinert5@tbcnet.com

SECRETARY / TREASURER

Gary Hearn, Salt Creek G.C.
Home: 630-540-1460, Office: 630-773-4790
E-mail: g.hearn@worldnet.att.net

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Luke Cella
MAGCS, 11855 Archer Ave., Lemont, IL 60439
Office: 630-243-7900, Fax: 630-257-0362
E-mail: luke@magcs.org

BOARD

Tim Anderson, Prestwick C.C.
Home: 630-718-9601, Office: 815-469-5903
E-mail: tjanderso@aol.com

Paul Bastron, Glen Flora C.C.
Home: 847-746-7212, Office: 847-244-6305
E-mail: pdbastron@sbcglobal.net

Dave Braasch, Glen Erin G.C.
Home: 608-373-7081, Office: 608-346-9009
E-mail: junior12i@aol.com

Tony Kalina, Prairie Landing G.C.
Home: 630-690-2683, Office: 630-232-1650
E-mail: tkalina@prairielanding.com

Scott Speiden, Itasca C.C.
Home: 630-773-3632, Office: 630-773-1800, x141
E-mail: greensfxr@aol.com

Scott Witte, Cantigny G.C.
Home: 630-497-1909, Office: 630-260-8182
E-mail: switte@tribune.com

PRESIDENT EMERITUS

Kevin DeRoo, Bartlett Hills G.C.
Home: 847-697-0595, Office: 630-483-4991
E-mail: kcdroo@juno.com

COMMERCIAL REPRESENTATIVE

Sylvia Lima, Prime Turf
E-mail: sylvia@primeturf.com

CLASS 'C' REPRESENTATIVE

Chad Kempf, Hinsdale Golf Club
Home: 630-759-4348, Office: 630-986-1323
E-mail: chadk@hinsdalegolfclub.org

TURFGRASS ADVISOR

Dr. Randy T. Kane
University of Illinois & CDGA
630-257-2005

EDITOR

Cathy Miles Ralston
Phone & Fax: 847-740-0962
E-mail: oncourse@comcast.net

CONTRIBUTING EDITOR

John Gurke
E-mail: Boomding@aol.com

GRAPHIC ARTIST

Mark Karczewski

This publication is not copyrighted. We would like to share our articles with any who would like to use them, but please give the author and *On Course* credit.

FRONT COVER

Hole no. 6 at Oak Grove Golf Course, site of the September meeting.
Photo by Jim Trzinski.

ON COURSE WITH THE PRESIDENT

3 **Cheater's Proof**

Fred Behnke

DIRECTOR'S COLUMN

5 **Volunteerism: The Ultimate Win-Win**

Phil Zeinert

SUPER -N- SITE

7 **Paul Sandall -N- Oak Grove Golf Course**

Larry Tomaszewski

ASK THE "EXPERT"

11 **Aggressive Green Aerification: A Case Study**

Julius Albaugh and Frank Heery

FEATURE ARTICLE

17 **September of My Years**

Paul Voykin

COMMENTARY

23 **What's In YOUR Water?**

Jim Glitto

25 **ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

ON THE MONEY

26 **Understanding Market Capitalization**

Larry Tomaszewski

THE BETTER HALF

27 **Parallel Lives**

Sue Witte

28 **THE BULL SHEET**

John Gurke

MAGCS EVENT

34 **July Meeting Venue, Fox Run Golf Links, Tests Seniors' Mettle at 2004 Championship**

John Gurke

MAGCS EVENT

37 **A Beautiful Day at the Bog**

Scott Witte

VOICE OF EXPERIENCE

39 **What We Have Here . . . Is a Need to Communicate**

Bruce Williams

AWARDS

40 **2003-2004 Ray Gerber and Fred Opperman Award Contestants**

Cathy Miles Ralston

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.

TODAY'S FIRST CHOICE



**CONSTRUCTION & TURF
EQUIPMENT SPECIALISTS**

SALES • SERVICE • PARTS • RENTAL

- AERIAL LIFTS
- AIR COMPRESSORS
- AIR HAMMERS
- ARROW BOARDS
- BACKHOES
- BALL DIAMOND RAKES
- BRUSH CHIPPERS
- CHAIN SAWS
- COMPACTION EQUIP.
- CONCRETE SAWS
- CONCRETE TROWELS
- CRAWLER TRACTORS
- EXCAVATORS-HYDRAULIC
- FORKLIFTS
- GENERATORS
- GOLF & TURF EQUIPMENT
- HEATERS
- LANDSCAPE ATTACHMENTS
- LANDSCAPE TRACTORS
- LIGHT TOWERS
- MINI-EXCAVATORS
- MIXERS
- PERSONNEL LIFTS
- PUMPS
- SKID STEERS
- STUMP GRINDERS
- TOP DRESSERS
- TRAILERS
- TRENCH BOXES
- TRENCHERS
- UTILITY VEHICLES
- WHEEL LOADERS

CASE

Kubota

Sky Trak®



JACOBSEN
A Textron Company



Three locations to serve you better

Waukegan

2216 N. Green Bay Rd.
Waukegan IL 60087
(847) 336-1205

Orland Park

16450 S. 104th Ave.
Orland Park IL 60467
(708) 349-8484

Lakemoor

27939 W. Concrete Dr.
Ingleside, IL 60041
(815) 363-4100

Check out our website: www.burrisequipment.com



Cheater's Proof

The Olympic Torch has just been extinguished and archers, kayakers and water poloists (poloers?) have been relegated to obscurity for another four years.

Anybody who has tackled the multitude of challenges associated with providing a quality golf experience for our demanding clientele has something valuable to offer the MAGCS. Don't cheat us out of your talent.

I enjoy the Olympic Games, not so much for the national medal counts anymore (it was more important when we were fighting it out with the U.S.S.R. and the "Iron Curtain"), but rather, seeing young people aspiring to achieve personal-best performances on a world stage is exciting.

I don't mind so much that commercialism and professionalism are so prevalent in today's Olympics. Hey, I'm all for somebody making a buck to run faster, jump higher or throw further. It in no way diminishes the achievements of these amazing athletes, and heck, if you're going to have a competition, get the best to compete.

What does bother me is that keeping the games "clean" no longer means keeping the pros out, it's policing the performance-enhancing designer drugs that are entering the competitive environment in waves.

Cheaters are not a new thing, but the opportunities and motives to cheat are many.

High-profile cheaters like the Enron boys and Martha Stewart may twist and spin the facts, and they may even get off, but they're still cheaters. People like us see that and wonder . . .

Is cheating to win okay if you don't get caught?

When you compete, is the pressure to win so intense that you would cheat to do it?

Are there degrees of cheating?

Are there some things where cheating is acceptable and even expected? (Income taxes come to mind.)

* * * * *

By national standards, the MAGCS is a huge chapter. At the annual election in San Diego, our chapter cast the second-largest block of votes in the GCSAA. There are a remarkable number of outstanding and prestigious golf courses in Chicagoland, and many, if not all, of our members enjoy the fruits of the hard work and dedication of the men and women who built this Association. Our move into the Midwest Golf House and the acquisition of a full-time executive director have positioned the MAGCS well for the future, but we are not on autopilot. Now, more than ever, we will need people of vision and dedication to carry on from this position of strength. It will soon be time to put a slate of candidates together for our annual election at the Midwest Turf Clinic.

If you're earning six figures, it's not just because you are charming and talented. If you have a quality staff and a well-equipped operation, it's not just because you are a master manager and motivator. If you jump out of bed and can't wait to get to work everyday, it's not just because fortune smiled on you. We all stand on the shoulders of those who went before us.

You may be asked to stand for election to the Board of Directors of the MAGCS; if you are, you have been identified by your peers as someone with

(continued on page 4)

leadership potential. You have been asked to give a little of your time to represent the almost-300 golf courses in our fold. If your first response isn't positive, allow me to anticipate some responses;

"I just don't have the time." Let me be blunt—that's a lame reaction. Board service requires less than a half-day a month, including travel time. I want you to consider how much time you'd have if there wasn't this Association in your life. My guess is that you'd be working two jobs to make ends meet.


"My employer won't let me." What? It may take a little gumption on your part to sell the concept, but hiding behind your boss' skirt is less-than-courageous—at least ask. I'll bet they jump at the chance to allow you to gain the experience of being on a Board.

"I haven't been asked before, why should I do it now?" There are any number of reasons, from waiting for you to step up on your own to just plain oversight—we have been known

to make mistakes. The current Board is made up of men and women who were both asked to run and volunteered on their own.

"I'm afraid to make a mistake." I respect that, but don't sell yourself short. You won't be alone, and I absolutely guarantee you that you will be a stronger superintendent if you agree to participate in managing this Association.

Anybody who has tackled the multitude of challenges associated with providing a quality golf experience for our demanding clientele has something valuable to offer the MAGCS.

Don't cheat us out of your talent.
Don't cheat yourself out of an opportunity to grow. 

Our move into the Midwest Golf House and the acquisition of a full-time executive director have positioned the MAGCS well for the future, but we are not on autopilot. Now, more than ever, we will need people of vision and dedication to carry on from this position of strength.



Charles J. Fiore Company, Inc.

Chicagoland's Largest Selection Of Premium Grade Plant Material

Over 1000 varieties of Trees, Shrubs,
Evergreens, Groundcovers, and Perennials
Ready for your immediate pickup or delivery!

Contact us for a demonstration of
LandPro Systems III
Landscape Management Software

**16606 West Hwy 22
Prairie View, IL 60069**

www.cjfiore.com

**TEL (847) 913-1414
FAX (847) 913-9690**



Volunteerism: The Ultimate Win-Win

"It is one of the most beautiful compensations of life, that no man can sincerely try to help another without helping himself." —Ralph Waldo Emerson

*We owe it to
ourselves to balance
our time, to grow
as individuals . . .
Volunteering our
time is an excellent
way to achieve
that balance.*

One of the most demanding professions is that of the golf course superintendent. It can be demanding because the hours seem to be endless; we struggle with the uncertainty of the weather; and since it is a business, we must adhere to tightening budgets. I have realized personally that it is far too easy to get caught up in the pursuit of excelling at our careers; we even become obsessed with our careers at the sacrifice of our well-being as people. We tend to be our own worst critics and oftentimes spend too much time to gain too little with only marginal improvements to the product we provide to our golfers. We owe it to ourselves to balance our time, to grow as individuals as well. Time well spent in balance will ultimately prove to be a huge asset to our well-being and ultimately will carry over to our performance at the workplace. Volunteering our time is an excellent way to achieve that balance.

Motivation to volunteer can come in many forms: to help a friend, to feel needed, to get to know the community, for recognition, to repay a debt, to learn something new, to donate professional skills, to be challenged, to explore a career, as therapy, or just plain fun! I have realized benefits along the way that include learning and developing new skills, meeting new people and building self-esteem and self-confidence.

Many opportunities exist through which we can volunteer. There are ways to offer your time and talents with church, school and community. Sometimes we offer our time due to a personal experience with an illness or cause. I have personally been active as a coach with baseball, served on my church council and recently with the MAGCS. Once I started with volunteering, it became second nature; now I would feel as if something were missing if I were to stop.

For those of you with families, like myself, we may find it hard to justify more time spent apart from our families. One suggestion would be to volunteer as a family. Schools, churches and communities frequently need the help an entire family could provide. Because of the benefits I have gained through volunteering, I can achieve the same or better results with less time. In fact, it has proven to be a win-win situation. Those benefiting from my volunteerism have gained, and I have gained personally by improving my performance as an employee. For those of you who volunteer, I'm sure you have your own motivations and personal rewards. If you have not considered volunteering, please give it a try; for those of you who have taken a break from volunteering, maybe your talents could once again be utilized.



Who to better understand a perfectionist than a perfectionist.

© 2002 The Toro Company



Toro® 800S Series sprinkler:

Put the water just where you want it. Precision control is made possible with predictable head rotation and uniform nozzle distribution.



Toro® Greensmaster® Flex 21:

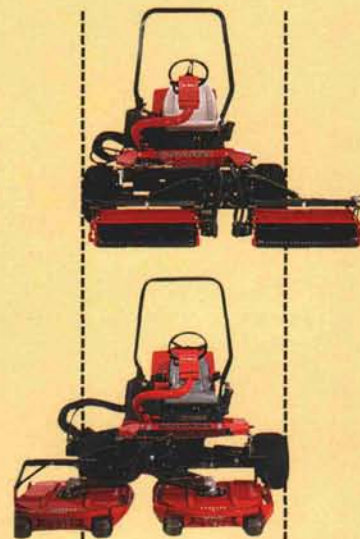
The greens mower that flexes with the contour of greens to virtually eliminate scalping.



Toro® Workman® 1100 and 2100 vehicles: With the most capacity and power in their class, these vehicles get more done. They also feature rattle-free plastic beds for a quieter ride.



Toro® Multi Pro® 1200 and 1250 sprayers: Featuring the innovative Spray Pro™ control system that directly links flow rate to ground speed ensuring precise application rate.



Toro® Groundsmaster® 3500-D and Reelmaster® 3100-D: Two innovative trim mowers with the Sidewinder™ cutting system. The reels on the 3100-D and the ground-following rotary decks on the 3500-D move side to side for superior trimming.

TPEC

Turf Professionals
Equipment Company
630-773-5555
www.turfproequipment.com

At Toro we know when it comes to your course, no detail is too small. That's why pros like you are the best source for new ideas on ways to make it look great. And keep it looking great year after year. To us, it's the perfect relationship.

TORO

Count on it.

Paul Sandall -N-



The Sandall family: Travis (age 10), Paul, Tanner (age 12) and Maria.

Oak Grove

GOLF COURSE

Where in the world is Alden, IL? No! It is not the night-spot capital of McHenry County. No! It is not the location of an amusement or water park. No! It did not receive the last remaining casino license in the state of Illinois.

Yes! It is a small, quiet farm community located on Route 173 west of the Chain of Lakes. Yes! It is rolling land, large mature oak trees, wetlands and natural grasslands. Yes! It is the home of an 18-hole championship golf course called Oak Grove. Yes! It is the site of the September, 2004 MAGCS meeting hosted by Paul Sandall, superintendent of Oak Grove Golf Course.

Photos by Jim Trzinski.



A distinctive covered bridge adjacent to no. 13 green at Oak Grove.

Oak Grove Golf Course is a beautifully manicured public golf course owned by the Hammersmith family. It comprises approximately 235 acres of 70-foot-plus majestic oak and cottonwood trees, natural wetlands and grasslands, elevated rolling hills, panoramic views of the surrounding area and undisturbed, undeveloped, beautiful Midwest land. This land used to be part of the Bull Valley Hunt Club. The land is uniquely natural and rustic in presentation. No housing developments! No homes butting up to the golf property! The property is home to numerous wildlife: deer, coyotes, cranes, pheasant, elk (farm off the fifth hole) and all types of waterfowl. Oak Grove is a Certified Signature Sanctuary by Audobon International. It is the 25th golf course so sanctioned.

The golf course was designed by architect Steven Halberg, ASLA. The project began in the spring of 1996, seeding (bentgrass tees, greens and fairways) completed in 1997, and open to the public in 1998. The rustic log-cabin clubhouse (completed in spring of 1999) complements the look and feel of the golf course.

Paul Sandall was hired as the superintendent in March of 2004. Welcome to the club, Paul! By the way,

you are hosting a monthly MAGCS meeting for your associates and peers in September! Paul welcomes the opportunity to visit with his associates and peers and display this golf course gem.

Paul, being an avid outdoorsman and hunter, loves to take the early-morning trips around the golf course. Rarely does he miss an opportunity to see different wildlife on the property. He commented on some of the unique features of the golf course: three acres of fast, undulating greens (averaging in

(continued on page 8)

size from 6,500 to 7,000 square feet), five separate sets of tee markers/boxes on each hole (and separate ball washers for each hole), wide fairways and natural curves and doglegs on most holes.

Some features unique to the presentation of Oak Grove include the granite markers on each hole displaying the design and layout, and cart-path curbs around the tee boxes and greens for protection of the grounds. The cart path runs throughout the course. The course provides a full-service driving range with mats or grass. Since the golf course is so new, there are only a few minor projects on the agenda: new tee box for no. 8, quick couplers on all greens and installation of a practice bunker and chipping green.

The front nine is more links-style: open prairies, wetland, rolling fairways and changes in elevation. Looking south from the sixth fairway provides a panoramic view of the entire golf course and surrounding landscape. No. 8, a reasonably short par 3, is a full carry over the wetlands (out-of-bounds left). The front nine, from the championship tees, measures more than 3,300 yards.

The back nine runs through the wetlands and majestic tree-lined

topography. Holes 10 and 11 are the signature holes for the back nine. No. 10, called "The Chute," begins from deep in the oak savannah. The hole doglegs left about 150 yards from the green. Don't think about cutting the corner of the dogleg. A number of towering oak trees will quickly change your mind. No. 11 is a truly unique golf-hole design, appropriately nicknamed "Anaconda." This is the ultimate "teaser," a 464-yard par 5. Use your head! Leave the driver in the bag. There is trouble everywhere. Large oaks line most of the remaining back nine holes. The back nine measures more than 3,200 yards.

My recommendation for a day of golf at Oak Grove: Bring an extra supply of golf balls.

Paul and I had a nice discussion about his background and how and why he became a golf course superintendent. Paul is married to Maria (an avid golfer, time permitting with the kids' activities). They have two boys: Tanner (12) and Travis (10). Both Tanner and Travis are deeply involved in baseball, soccer, basketball, football and of course, golf. Paul received his associate's degree in horticulture from Harper College. His hobbies include bow-hunting, bird-hunting and 12-inch softball.

Paul wasn't born to be a golf course superintendent. Sometimes these things just happen! As with a number of superintendents, the love of the outdoors and the opportunity to work with their hands steers them in that direction. And of course, a quality mentor always helps! Paul's would be Tim Davis of Shoreacres. Additionally, a number of quality superintendents kept him on the straight and narrow. Those individuals would be Tom Pritchard, Gilbert Velasquez and Mike Mumper.

It all started with a summer job at Woodstock Country Club, working for Tim Davis laying sod. This was 1981. Paul followed Tim to Shoreacres, working as a foreman and performing numerous other responsibilities for the next seven years. Tim always increased his responsibility in and knowledge of the business. In 1988, Paul moved on to White Eagle Country Club as an assistant superintendent under the guidance of Gilbert Velasquez. He stayed there for two-and-a-half years. From there, he accepted the superintendent position at Woodstock Country Club (following in the footsteps of Tom Pritchard). He ran the operation for the next four years.

For some reason, Paul thought roofing was an ideal career change. That lasted five months. Time to go back to being a superintendent. For the next five or so years, Paul worked at Briar Leaf Country Club in LaPorte, IN and Whitaker Golf Course in New Buffalo, MI. Finally, it was time to come back to Illinois. Paul accepted a position as an assistant superintendent at Park Ridge Country Club. He stayed at Park Ridge for five-and-a-half years, a number of those years with Mike Mumper. In March of 2004, Paul accepted the superintendent position at Oak Grove, a job that was vacated by Brad Legnaioli.

Paul commented that all the superintendents that he has worked for in the past have been invaluable in providing direction and advice. As he changed courses, their wealth of knowledge and experience has always been accessible to him. He specifically commented that Tim Davis, Tom Pritchard and Mike Mumper have been very influential. Their advice of



A view of no. 3 green also reveals some of the natural features that make Oak Grove so beautiful.

“never taking anything for granted” and “taking things a day at a time” has helped him throughout his career. His staff of 14 has made his transition into the new position “seamless.”

Paul’s association with the MAGCS and its members has created lifelong friendships. He commented that a few weeks ago, his son Tanner

ended up playing in an all-star baseball game against Kevin DeRoo’s son. Unfortunately, Tanner ended up on the short end of the score. It is a small world when you consider the size and breadth of the Association. The support of his peers has been comforting. The accolades of golfers walking off the course have been rewarding.

In September, leave your dancing shoes, kids and chips at home! You will be playing some serious golf at Oak Grove Golf Course. Remember! Bring extra golf balls.



No. 8 green.



Now, there's a practical innovation that eliminates the need for frequent and repeated applications of potassium to high stress areas like fairways and sports fields. With new Expo, we've created a homogeneous potassium sulfate product that releases at the same rate as controlled-release nitrogens. The result is a profession-

Introducing EXPO . The controlled-release potassium sulfate



Our latest innovation greatly reduces the stress on turf. And on turf managers.

al grade fertilizer that feeds continuously for up to ten weeks without having to apply additional potassium. So, you get better control over your turf's nutrition, more even release of nutrients, and a lot fewer headaches. New Expo is available in NX-PRO products. For more information, contact your Turfgrass representative or visit www.LebanonTurf.com. Make sure the fertilizer you use contains new Expo. It's Expo-nentially better for reducing stress.

LebanonTurf

1-800-233-0628 • www.lebanonturf.com

REBORDER YOUR FAIRWAYS WITH HUBER RANCH SOD

Reborder all 18 fairways in two weeks with little disruption to play.

Custom harvesting and installation of Big Roll sod.

BAyr Root Big Roll Bentgrass & Bluegrass available.

**HUBER RANCH
SOD NURSERY**

1-800-553-0552

Schneider, IN
www.hubersod.com

