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FRONT COVER

Par-3, 149-yard no. 10 at Chicago Golf Club, host of the 2005 Walker Cup. (Photo courtesy Chicago Golf Club/USGA)

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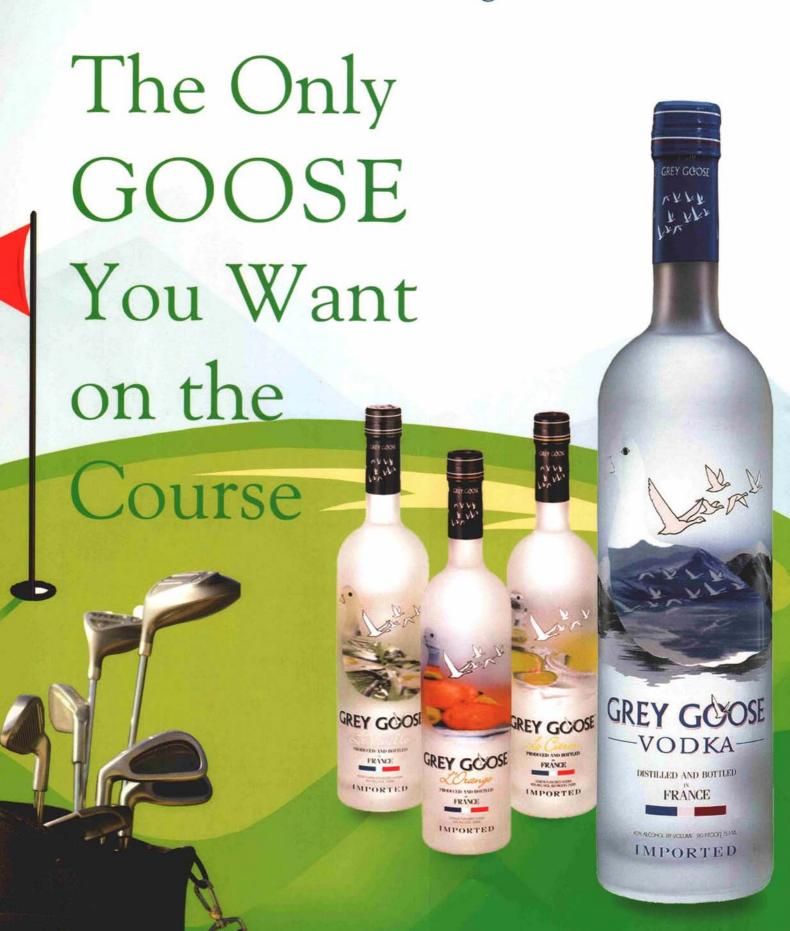
The Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents (MAGCS), founded December 24, 1926, is a professional organization whose goals include preservation and dissemination of scientific and practical knowledge pertaining to golf turf maintenance.

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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ON COURSE WITH THE PRESIDENT

Phil Zeinert, CGCS Elgin Country Club

GCSAA Working Closely with Local Chapters to Enhance Member Benefits

This month I would like to take the time to explain to fellow MAGCS members how GCSAA will enhance member benefits by working more closely with local chapters.

... it only makes sense that services offered by GCSAA would be more effective with input from and administration by the local chapter.

Since the needs vary among geographical areas with respect to many of the services offered by GCSAA, it only makes sense that services offered by GCSAA would be more effective with input from and administration by the local chapter. This task is difficult, though, when most chapters rely on all-volunteer service corps while also trying to provide services to their respective memberships. However, chapters such as MAGCS have hired an executive director to help facilitate providing member services. Not just MAGCS, but 78 of the 104 affiliated chapters of GCSAA employ paid staff. GCSAA's Chapter Relations Committee and Chapter Executives Task Group are focusing their efforts to define how to best allocate GCSAA resources to local chapters.

Luke Cella, MAGCS executive director, is a member of the Chapter Relations Committee and is chair of the Chapter Executives Task Group. The Chapter Relations Committee has identified some common issues shared by most chapters and some of the key programs offered by GCSAA through which local chapters can focus on engaging their respective members. The Chapter Executives Task Group has provided insights on making chapter executives more effective. In short, both the committee and task force have identified ways to improve our resources and make it possible for GCSAA to enhance GCSAA services and local chapters to enhance their services. A huge "thank you" goes to Luke Cella for volunteering his time and expertise.

The upcoming July monthly meeting is, instead of a golf outing, the annual Kane County Cougars game and picnic on July 16. I encourage everyone to attend and bring your families for a fun event.





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DIRECTOR'S COLUMN

Ed Braunsky, CGCS Geneva Golf Club



Extra Effort!

We have all been there. You are ready to leave for the day and the phone rings asking for one more favor from the pro shop or clubhouse staff. You take care of the request and find several more attention-to-detail items that you take care of before you leave. I must make a major confession . . . I am a Professional Paper-Picker-Upper! I hope to one day be approached by a hidden camera show that gives away a new Lexus for spotting a person picking up trash outside of a major retail store.

. . . the Past Presidents Council meets once a year to go over all committees and suggest any new ideas and changes that may help the MAGCS develop and grow . . . they are giving that extra effort in order to help the Association that they have served already for so many years.

Back in March, several past presidents of the MAGCS gave a lot of extra effort back to this Association. Those in attendance that day were Kevin DeRoo, Brian Bossert, Al Fierst, Ed Fischer, Tim Kelly, Bob Maibusch, Mike Bavier, Joel Purpur, Luke Strojny, Don Ferreri, Paul Voykin, Fred Behnke and yours truly. Our executive director, Luke Cella, and current president, Phil Zeinert, were also in attendance. For those of you that do not know, the Past Presidents Council meets once a year to go over all committees and suggest any new ideas and changes that may help the Association develop and grow. It is quite a lively "exchange of ideas" that day and always seems to produce at least one or two things that the Board can take and run with. Many of those who are listed above are giving that extra effort in order to help the Association that they have worked with for so many years. I should have included on the signup sheet this year a column that asked for years of service. What a number that would be! Maybe, too, I could have asked for the number of committees guys have served on along with the number of broken tees they have picked up along with branches and cigarette butts! Thanks, guys, for all of your efforts!

I want to take a few minutes of everyone's time to talk about one of our Midwest members who gave a lot of extra effort to his golf facilities. James "Jimmy Mac" McNair only gave 30 years of effort to Fox Bend Golf Course and Orchard Valley Golf Course. I have had the pleasure to not only play golf with Jimmy but also attend with him a Bradley Braves basketball game, a Notre Dame football game (psycho Ken Shepard, who is another extra-effort guy, set that one up) and the boys' high school basketball tourney down in Peoria. A few weeks ago, a couple of foursomes got together to "celebrate" Jim's last day of work with a tour around Orchard Valley. What a great day. The cloud formations that afternoon would have had Tom Skilling in tears! My golf game would have had many in tears too. We got to the last hole and Jim stated, "I want to walk this one." Jim proceeded to walk across the bridge on the 18th and removed his hat almost like Jack or Arnold at the Masters or the Open. A tear came to my eye. At this point, I thought about two things: "This is for all of the extra effort you gave for all of those years . . . and Jimmy, TAKE ME WITH YOU to that land of retirement!" The best part of that 18th hole was yet to come. Jim hit his approach to the green and all of the sudden, all of these lovely geese surrounded him and led him towards his last day at work. I turned around to yell at John Gurke (another extra-effort guy) for his camera! Gene "Extra Effort" Thompson tried to get a photo off of his phone but I never did see if that came out. In a way I hope it did not. It would be fitting to have Jim go out without a lot of pomp and circumstance. I think a lot of extra-effort golf course superintendents would want it that way.



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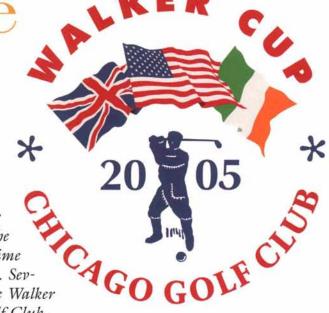
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When Chicago Golf Club last hosted the Walker Cup, Babe Ruth and the Yankees were en route to winning the World Series, the Summer Olympics were in Amsterdam and Calvin Coolidge was our nation's President. Six years prior, golf course architect Seth Raynor had renovated Chicago Golf Club under the direction of C.B Macdonald. 1928 was a long time ago and many things have occurred since then. Seventy-seven years later, August 13-14, 2005, the Walker Cup is once again being played at Chicago Golf Club.



Walker Cup Matches

CHICAGO GOLF CLUB

WHEATON, ILLINOIS

The Walker Cup Matches will be played at the Chicago Golf Club

THURSDAY, AUGUST 30TH, 1928

FRIDAY, AUGUST 31ST, 1928 10 A. M. and 2 P. M.

The competing teams will be:

BRITISH

W. L. Hope

J. B. Beek Dr. A. R. MacC J. B. Beck Dr. A. R. MacCallum
R. H. Hardman T. P. Perkins
Major C. O. Hezlet E. F. Storey T. A. Torrance G. N. Martin

AMERICAN

Robert T. Jones, Jr., Captain
George von Elm
Francis Ouimet
Charles Evans, Jr.
Jesse Sweetser
Maurice J. McCarthy, Jr., Alternate
Eugene Homans, Alternate

First day matches will be 4 two-ball foursomes, 36 holes, match play.

Second day matches will be 8 twosomes, 36 holes, match play.

On the above .wo days the grounds will be open to the public upon the payment of an ADMISSION FEE OF \$2.00 EACH DAY.

Luncheon will be served at a reasonable cost on the Club's Polo Field in the center of the course, by one of Chicago's leading caterers.

Chicago and Northwestern trains to and from Wheaton, Illinois, with a Bus service between Wheaton and Chicago Golf Club.

Chicago Aurora & Elgin R. R. trains between Wells Street Station, Chicago, and Chicago Golf Station, one minute walk from Club House.

A public parking space for automobiles has been arranged, with entrance from Roosevelt Road, one-quarter mile West of Chicago Aurora & Elgin tracks at Wheaton. An entrance has been provided from this parking space directly to the Chicago Golf Station of that railroad, where a ticket selling booth will be established.

For further information call Chicago Golf Club on telephone, Wheaton No. 2

The Walker Cup is a series of golf matches conducted biennially in odd-numbered years between teams comprising the leading amateur golfers of the United States and Great Britain/Ireland. The teams consist of not more than 10 players and a captain. The matches are co-organized by the United States Golf Association and the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St. Andrews and named in honor of George Herbert Walker. If that name sounds familiar, it's because he was the maternal grandfather and namesake of the former President of the United States, George H. W. Bush, and great-grandfather of the current President. George Herbert Walker was president of the USGA in 1920 and donor of the trophy at the series' inception. Described as "a devoted patron, a fine sportsman and a great gentleman," Walker presented a plan for an international golf championship to the USGA Executive Committee on December 21, 1920. In his capacity as president of the USGA, Walker had witnessed the growing interest of his countrymen in international golf competition.

In 1920, Walker was also a member of the USGA delegation that met with the R&A Rules Committee in Britain around the time of the British Amateur. The chairman of the newly formed R&A Championship Committee played golf with Walker and was supportive of Walker's initiative. The USGA approved his plan; Walker offered a trophy and though the event was formally entitled "The United States Golf Association International Challenge Trophy," it was immediately renamed "The Walker Cup" by an enthusiastic press.

(continued on page 8)

The official event debuted in 1921 and ran annually until 1924. From that time forward, the matches became a biennial event, with a later switch to odd-numbered years. The United States and Great Britain/Ireland alternate in hosting the tournament.

The matches employ a combination of individual, alternate-shot, best ball and doubles competition in a format similar to the professional Ryder Cup, which also began as a competition between the U.S. and the United Kingdom. Unlike the Ryder Cup, the Walker Cup has never been expanded to make all European amateur golfers eligible to compete.

An interesting feature of the Walker Cup has been the selection procedure over the years. Apart from the respective national championships, a few notable open amateur competitions and the Amateur in Britain, in the early years few competitions of stature existed in which all top players participated, giving the selectors opportunity to judge the comparative abilities of potential team members.

Nevertheless, the USGA established three sound principles to guide the selection of American Walker Cup teams, which were:

- Merit as a competitive golfer based upon tournaments of importance.
- Sportsmanship and general ability to represent the United States.



Major Charles O. Hezlet, a mainstay of the British team, tees off on the first hole during the 1928 Walker Cup.

3. Unquestioned status as an amateur golfer.

The USGA chose America's oldest club to host the fifth Walker Cup matches. Chicago Golf Club was founded by Charles Blair Macdonald in 1892, and by 1893 boasted the first 18-hole golf course in America. Chicago Golf Club is one of the five founding members of the USGA and through its history has hosted three U.S. Opens and four U.S. Amateurs.

In 1921, after many years of deliberation and the intervening war, the club's committee approved an extensive renovation by Seth Raynor, a protégé of Macdonald. By June 1923, the newly renovated course was ready for play. Little has changed since then on the parkland, 6,710-yard, par-70 course.

The 1928 Proceedings

The USGA and the R&A used the occasion of the 1928 matches to debate the size of the golf ball, which the Americans wanted to standardize at 1.68" in diameter and 1.55 ounces in weight. The R&A preferred to keep the "British Ball," measuring 1.62" in diameter and weighing 1.62 ounces. The matter would, in fact, not be finally resolved until 1990!

Also on the agenda in 1928 for the game's rule-makers was a ruling on steel shafts. The USGA had first permitted their use in 1924. A year after the 1928 Walker Cup, and principally due to the imminent shortages in the supply of hickory, steel shafts were eventually legalized in Britain.

The organizers in 1928 anticipated the matches would attract a sizable crowd, as evident from the announcement of the event in a Chicago newspaper. Included in the information about the teams and dates was the following:

On the above two days the grounds will be open to the public upon payment of an admission fee of \$2.00 each day. Luncheon will be served at a reasonable cost on the Club's Polo Field in the center of the course by one of Chicago's leading caterers. Chicago and Northwestern trains to and from



The 1928 U.S. team. Legendary Bobby Jones is front row, center.

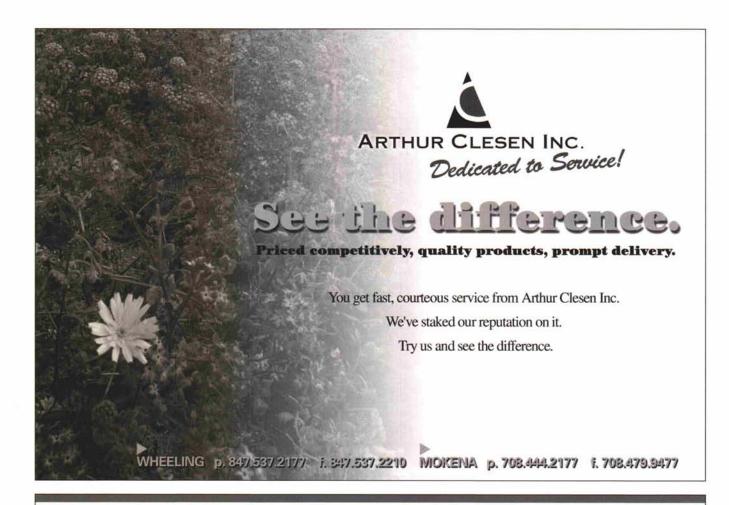


This view of the back of Chicago Golf's clubhouse from the first tee evokes a bygone era.



Hole no. 9 at Chicago Golf. Mastering the greens may be critical to winning this year's Walker Cup Match.

(continued on page 11)



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