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.....
It's that time of the season when we perform the most important aspect of our maintenance programs—we play golf! Over the past month-and-a-half, MAGCS members have had a wide variety of great golfing opportunities to choose from. A brief review of our recent endeavors on some of the area's finest tracks follows, and all with one common denominator: Tim Freaking Davis won all of them.

.....
Starting the fall golf season was the MAGCS Championship on September 19 at Idlewild Country Club in Flossmoor, IL, with **Kurt Sams**, CGCS serving as host. It was a steamy day for mid-September, and our annual championship was hotly contested on Kurt's awesome course. This year's MAGCS champion is **Tim Davis** (Shoreacres), who shot a blistering 71. First-flight winner (with a decided home-court advantage) was Kurt Sams with 82, second flight went to **Paul Sandall** (Oak Grove G.C.) with 90, senior net flight was a tie between **Ed Fischer**, CGCS (Old Elm Club) and **Randy Wahler**, CGCS (Knollwood Club) with 77s, senior gross flight went to Tim Davis, while the commercial net flight was taken by **Howie Shuck** (BTSI) with 74 and commercial gross flight had **Mike Benkusky** as its winner with 80. After the golf, the contestants adjourned to the clubhouse for eats, drinks and awards. A highlight was the passing of a hat for Derek Florian's children's education fund, which raised \$748—thank you to all members who generously contributed! Our invaluable sponsors for the day were Burris Equipment Company, Chicagoland Turf, J.W. Turf, Nadler Golf Car Sales, Nels J. Johnson Tree Experts, Inc., Palatine Oil Company and TPEC—thank you for your kind support! And finally, thank you to Kurt Sams and all the staff at Idlewild who made our championship such a success.



The beautiful 10th hole (ruined by the ugly follow-through of Kevin DeRoo).



Even when away from work, Erik Johnson can't stop working.



Thank God for the dual ballwashers, without which it would have been a seven-hour round!



2005 champion Tim Davis.



The winner's booty.



Host (and first-flight champ) Kurt Sams.

.....
Next on the agenda was a trip to Sheboygan, WI, for the Wee One Foundation's 2nd Annual Outing on September 26 at the spectacular Pine Hills Country Club. This event is a fundraiser for the Wee One Foundation, which was founded on behalf of Wayne Otto, CGCS to benefit golf course maintenance professionals and their dependents who incur overwhelming expenses due to medical hardship without comprehensive insurance or adequate financial resources. For those of you who missed this year's event, you'll want to put it on the calendar for next year—Pine Hills is one beautiful golf course! It features very undulating terrain with breathtaking views, an idyllically-situated clubhouse overlooking the course, and "greens like potato chips" (as so aptly described by **Chad Ball**). The format was a two-person team event where both players tee off and choose the best drive from which to play their own ball through the hole. The big winners of the day were JoAnn Otto and Beverly Quast, who won virtually every longest-putt contest out there. Hearty thanks to superintendent Rod Johnson, CGCS and his staff

for a great day and a superb golf experience. Also, if you are interested in becoming a member of the Wee One Foundation, contact them at www.weeone.org or call **Danny Quast**, CGCS at 920-386-9000.



The Wee One Foundation benefactors.



Big winners JoAnn Otto and Beverly Quast.



The picturesque clubhouse and rolling terrain of Pine Hills Country Club.

On October 3, Midwest members converged on the Inverness Golf Club in Palatine, IL, where superintendent **Mike Bavier**, CGCS hosted the MAGCS/ITF Combined Fall Golf Day and MAGCS Annual College Championship. Defending champ Danville Area Community College made a strong bid for a

repeat, but the stronger team from Southern Illinois University (Tim Davis and **Tommy Robinson**) took the trophy with a net 62. Finishing first in the gross division was the team from Penn State University of **Bob Kronn** and Ed Fischer with 64, and the independent winners were

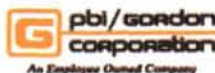
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Rick Reed and Mark Neuroth with 64. Even after enduring nearly 1.5 inches of rain the day before the event, the course was in excellent condition, and Mike and assistant superintendent **Brian Mores** and their staff performed miracles just to get carts on the course.

There were many winners on the day, not the least of which was the Illinois Turfgrass Foundation. Many thanks to the day's sponsors: Illinois Pump, Inc. (lunch); Burris Equipment and Chicagoland Turf (beverages); President's Club—BASF, Bayer Environmental Science, Central Sod Farms, Duntelman Turf Farms, H & E Sod/Town & Country Landscape Supply, Lesco, Nels J. Johnson Tree Experts, Inc., Syngenta and TPEC; Directors' Club—BTSL, Dow AgroSciences, Hydrologic Rainbird Irrigation Distributors, Illinois Pump, Inc., Johnson & Associates of Lombard, Kaplan Trucking and Paving, Lebanon Turf, Mississippi Valley Stihl and Healthy Gro-Pearl Valley Organix, Inc.; Tee Sponsors—Cleary Chemical, Clesen Wholesale Greenhouse, Commercial Turf and Tractor, J.W. Turf, Inc., Nadler Golf Car Sales, Reinders, Rabine Paving and The Andersons. Also, thanks to **Sharon Riesenbeck** and Grey Goose (which contributed \$690 to ITF), **Marsha Traves** and **Patti Thorson**, **Darin Habenicht** and **Dr. Tom Voigt** and his U of I helpers **Tim** and **Matt** for their greatly appreciated work on the par 3s. Finally, special thanks go out to **Trent Bradford**, **Phil Zeinert**, **CGCS** and **Dick Lamkey** for their generosity in donating prizes, and to **Erwin McKone**, **CGCS** for "emceeing" the awards ceremony. Great job, everyone!



Aaron Easter, Kevin DeRoo, Erwin McKone and Andrew Reynolds.



Scot Spier, Tim Keating, Mark Craft and Jim Shanley.



Paul Burger, Holly Gilmour, Jay Druhan and Mike Bavier.



Front: Dave Kohley and Tim Scott. Back: Don Ferreri and Dave Gelino.



Front: Paul Yerkes and John Gurke. Back: Jeff Smith, Mike Mumper, Dave Radaj, Luke Cella and Keith Peterson.



The winning team of Tim Davis and Tommy Robinson from SIU.



Brock Burton, Brian Bossert, Dennis Buck and Ron Dohman.



Jim Knulty, Brad Johnsen and Charlie Brugler.



Dick Lamkey with his auction prize.



Pat Norton putts while red-checkered-flag-faced-guy looks on.



Rick Wilson, Patti Thorson, Trent Bradford, Brian Baker, Dan Marco and Sharon Riesenbeck.

Next on the fall tour was the University of Illinois Turf Alumni Outing, held this year at Kemper Lakes Golf Club in Hawthorn Woods, IL, with **Dan Tully** hosting. Thirty-plus alums and U of I staff attended and enjoyed a day of catching up with former classmates, learning of the goings-on down in Urbana-Champaign, and of course, playing golf on a world-class layout. The weather once again cooperated (as it has this entire fall—if you like it bone-dry), and the event was a great success. Thanks to Dan, the staff at Kemper Lakes, Drs. Bruce

Branham and **Tom Voigt**, and the U of I Turf Club for their work, and to all the alums who came out. Also congrats to **Steve Cummins** (Lake Barrington Shores C.C.) on winning the “Most Unchanged Since These Events Started” award. Not only does Steve look exactly as he did at the first event back in 1988, I think he still wears the same glasses.

.....

(continued on page 26)



The classic swing of Dr. Tom Voigt.



This year's group of U of I alums.



And many of those same people back in 1988 at Bartlett Hills—thinner and less bald.

Last, but certainly not least, the CAGCS held its annual Founders Cup golf event on October 13 at Bob O'Link Golf Club in Highland Park, IL, with **Rick Bowden** hosting. Thirty-two players vied for the Cup, including Tim Davis trying for the coveted "Grand Slam" of Midwest golf events. Alas, it wasn't to be, as Ed Fischer's gross 75 took that category and **Joel Purpur**, CGCS with a net 67 won the day. You couldn't have asked for better weather in mid-October, and the greens were as close to perfection as is possible. Congrats to the winners, and thanks to Rick and the staff for their generosity in hosting this fun event.

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Brad Anderson, CGCS at Midlane Country Club.

Brad Anderson, CGCS, Earns Inaugural President's Award for Meritorious Service

Last year, the MAGCS Board of Directors agreed that it was appropriate and necessary to recognize the exceptional contribution of volunteers to the advancement of our Association, so I was directed to inaugurate the President's Award for Meritorious Service. I had two conditions to meet: the award could not go to anyone who held office or received compensation from the MAGCS for services rendered, and the voluntary service had to be significant enough to warrant special attention.

I took this assignment very seriously; after all, the MAGCS thrives (or declines) with volunteerism. The open sharing of matters pertaining to the care and feeding of golf courses and the immense work it takes to provide the quality of service our members have come to expect simply cannot be accomplished without the contributions of the many who serve on committees or special projects.

So I pondered . . . for about two minutes—yeah, I didn't even have to go past the first page of the MAGCS directory.

It simply had to be Brad Anderson, CGCS, of Midlane Country Club.

"Love is not only something you feel. It's something you do."

David Wilkerson
Clergyman

Many remarkable people come from remarkable families, and Brad is no exception. He and his best friend, his wife, Kim, have been married for 23 years. Kim is the daughter of dairy farmers, so she is understanding and supportive of Brad's work schedule. They have seven children, ranging in age from 21 to five (that in itself is worthy of an award). The kids—Chelsey, Sean, Kristin, Erick, Peter, Scott and Luke—are home-schooled by Kim, and Brad proudly points out that the eldest just received a scholarship to Trinity College. (Sounds like Kim should've gotten the award, doesn't it?) There is a little gap between the first four and the last three, and Brad recalls needing to shop for a crib and diaper-changing table at age 40 because they gave their old ones away—parenthood *deja vu*.

Brad has been the superintendent at Midlane for 15 years. He teaches turfgrass science at the College of Lake County, and in a couple of weeks he is heading down to the New Orleans area with a group from his church and a bunch of chainsaws to help clean up a particularly devastated area. Excuse me for a while . . . I need a nap.

"You don't understand anything until you learn it more than one way."

Marvin Minsky
Scientist and Educator

Many golf course superintendents consider peer testimonials their best source of information. The unvarnished opinion of someone who has "been there and done that" can be extraordinarily valuable when one is faced with an unknown. In essence, this is the cornerstone of our Association. Armed with an MAGCS directory and a telephone, a virtual encyclopedia of golf course maintenance is out there—if you know who to call.

In the early days of Brad's career, he caught on quickly that he could get smarter faster by drawing on the experiences of his fellows. Brad's main resource at the time was *Verdure*, the newsletter of the Chicagoland Association of Golf Course Superintendents. In particular, Kenny Quant while at Glencoe G.C. was the editor who instituted a feature called "News Around Town," snippets of information about projects, new products and inventions that Kenny gleaned from the membership and published. As his collection of *Verdure* grew, so did Brad's list of who to call when . . .

Now, it's one thing to devote a couple of hours penning an article for *On Course*, it's quite another to spend a couple of minutes talking to someone about something you accomplished. Brad felt that there was a motherlode of valuable insight among the members of MAGCS that could be unearthed if only there was a way to make it more painless to share. Brad approached the MAGCS Board with the idea of assembling a corps of "stringers" to solicit the membership for brief, newsworthy items pertaining to golf course management. The idea was shipped off to the Editorial Committee who embraced it (and Brad), and "Midwest Breezes" was reborn (the title of the feature was borrowed from Fred Opperman's monthly editor's column in the old *Bull Sheet*).

"We can only pay our debt to the past by putting the future in debt to ourselves."

John Buchan (1875-1940)
Statesman and Writer

(continued on page 28)

Seventy-five years is a long time. In 2001, the MAGCS celebrated its 75th birthday. There was much ado about history and pioneers. *On Course* ran a fabulous series highlighting each decade of our existence. It became fashionable to be in touch with the past, and impetus was generated for the completion of a project that had begun several years earlier: the MAGCS Family Tree.

Brad enjoys talking (as those who have spoken with him know), and his curiosity for things is a beast best fed by things ancient and hallowed. Conversations with ancient and hallowed superintendents like Paul Voykin, Bob Williams and Dudley Smith led Brad to the conclusion that completing the MAGCS Family Tree was a job that needed doing. Once again, with the Board's blessing, Brad assembled a team that included George Minnis (MAGCS executive secretary), Al Fierst, Gary Hearn and Luke Cella (who did yeoman's work assembling the data into its final format). Brad pointed out that the real work was done by the MAGCS membership, who researched their clubs' archives and responded with the information that was fed into the database. You can find the finished product in your directory. Bob Williams was the inspiration, but Brad was the straw that stirred the drink of the MAGCS Family Tree. Much valuable history that may have been lost has been preserved.

Interestingly, Brad relates that he had occasion to use information from the Family Tree to respond to the question: What is the shelf life of a golf course superintendent? Brad was able to make a case for the argument that golf courses that enjoy prestigious reputations, in many cases, employ fewer superintendents for longer terms. You can draw your own conclusions; the point is that the data is now there to be examined.

"The first law of ecology is that everything is related to everything else."

Barry Commoner
Biologist and Educator

There's your first recipient of the President's Award for Meritorious Service, Brad Anderson at this time last year. I hope you agree it was well-deserved.



The Anderson family (L to R): Erick, 15; Peter, 12; Chelsey, 21; Sean, 19; Brad and Kim; Luke, 6; Scott, 10; and Kristin, 17.

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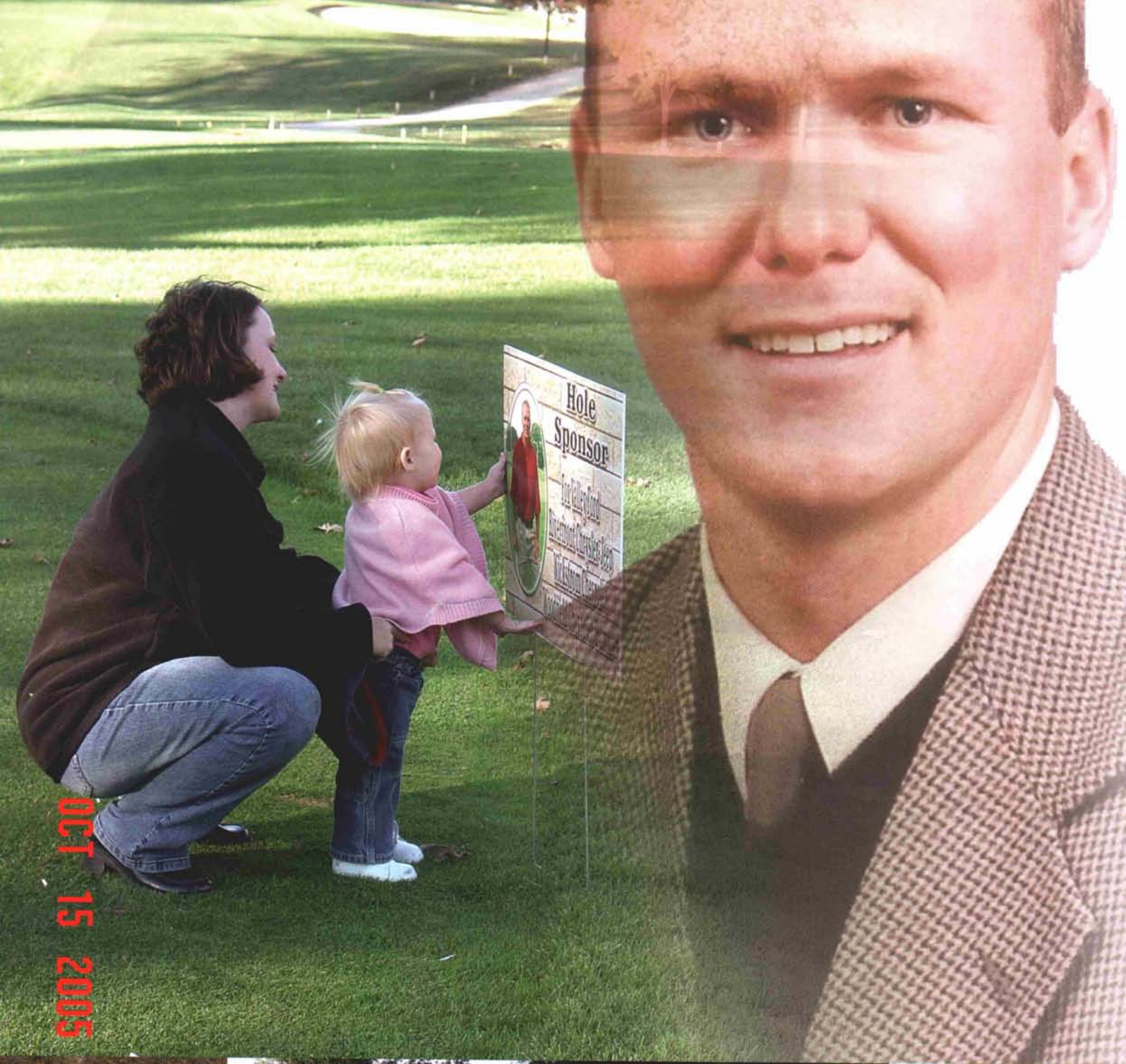
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