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### FRONT COVER

The 10th tee and 18th green in the background taken from the roof of Aurora Country Club's Clubhouse.  
Photo Credit: John Gurke.

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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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# Hit the Ground Running

*In 1926 the Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents was founded by a small group of local Chicago Greenkeepers. At the center of the association was a common belief in a set of core values. These values included:*

- The advancement of the science of turfgrass management
- To discover and share effective, efficient, and economical methods of golf course management
- To work together to enhance, individually and collectively, the professional image of the golf course superintendent.

Over the last 80 years the MAGCS has evolved into one of the largest and most respected local chapters within the GCSAA. Today, the strength of the MAGCS is still found in its 800 members. They support the same core values set forth by the charter members back in 1926.

This month, all MAGCS members will receive their membership renewal statement. At the annual meeting a twenty-dollar dues increase was voted on and approved. The dues increase affects class A, SM, and E members. The dues structure for class C, D, and F remains unchanged. Historically, dues increases have resulted in a slight decrease in membership renewal. Typically it takes a couple of years to repatriate these members. Annual membership renewal combined with a slight dues increase certainly raises the question: "What value do I receive from membership in the Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents?" This year, while contemplating your membership renewal, I would ask that you consider the value of the following benefits afforded to members of the MAGCS.

*...MAGCS has  
evolved into one  
of the largest  
and most respected  
local chapters  
within the GCSAA*

- Educational opportunities
- The chance to network with peers operating under the same set of local industry conditions
- Subscription to the association's award winning magazine *On Course*
- Seasonal golf events with exposure to a variety of different golf venues
- Membership directory
- Access to the "members only" section of the web site
- Scholarship opportunities for children of MAGCS members, regardless of their chosen field of study
- Social activities such as the fall dinner dance and the hospitality suite at the national conference
- A voice in one of the largest voting blocks at the national level
- The employment referral program
- Benevolent contributions for MAGCS family members
- Funding of turfgrass research projects
- Resources for environmental stewardship and awareness
- Access to the association's full time professional staff
- Affiliation with other green industry associations
- Professional recognition by your peers and employer



- Direct access to leading researchers in the field of turfgrass management
- The opportunity to refine leadership skills through participation at the committee or board level
- Charitable contributions and financial aid to worthy organizations

When preparing for a job interview it is often said that the most important thing to remember is to ask for the job. This is no different. Your involvement is the corner stone of this association. **The MAGCS is asking for your participation!!**

As this is my first president's message, I would be remiss if I did not take a moment to thank you for the opportunity to serve as the president of the MAGCS. It is very fulfilling to have the opportunity to give back to an association with such a long history of excellence. I anticipate a great year, and I look forward to the challenges that lie ahead.

Please join me in welcoming incoming board member Harry Lovero, as he embarks on his path of service to the membership of the MAGCS. To outgoing MAGCS President, Gary Hearn, I would like to thank you personally for your dedication and leadership. I look forward to your continued guidance and support in the year to come. And finally, to the membership of the MAGCS, from my family to yours, best wishes for a safe and joyful holiday season.

Merry Christmas!

Tim 

*Your involvement  
is the corner stone  
of this association.*



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# Slow Down

*How many times have you been asked, "What do you do in the off season"? This always occurs after someone learns that you manage a golf course. Immediately, their thought processes are in motion: course closed during winter = no work. Don't you wish this were the case? There is no off-season, just a slow-season. Between budgeting and forecasting, training, education, snow removal, hopefully some vacation, and preparations for the coming year, the Masters will be taking place again and you'll be back at it. As the golfing slow-season seems to get shorter and shorter every year, I urge you to take this winter and make it your own slow-season.*

*...there are  
certain things  
we can do  
to escape our  
fast-paced world.*

Our society is driven by speed, not just on greens, but throughout. Technology, by definition, develops ways of doing things better, more efficiently, more productively, and, ultimately, faster. Technology is not just the use of computers or some other electronic device, even though most of us immediately think of this when we hear the word. Technology is a defining feature of society's evolution. When man first picked up a rock and scraped a hole with it, or sharpened the rock and fastened it to a stick, life changed. Technology continues to define who we are by how we do things and ultimately by what we value.

As we apply technology to our lives, it allows us to do more. In some cases this is good. When we are asked to do more with less at the golf course, using technology can be good. When we are judged and rewarded on this basis, technology is best utilized. But does technology, when applied to our personal lives, truly benefit us? The first inclination is to say yes, for example: using your cell phone, while in the middle of the frozen food section, to call your wife and ask what it was she needed you to pick up. Sure, this will save you a trip back to the grocery store, but when does technology get in the way of living your life? How much do you need to accomplish in any given day?

Does it matter how quickly you are able to wash and wax the car (remember those old waxes that used to have to dry for hours)? So perhaps you can wash and wax your spouse's car, or sweep out the garage, or get down the Christmas decorations in order to hang them as quickly as possible on a warm Thanksgiving weekend, or use the leaf blower to get the leaves piled on the curb, for the seventh time, before the city comes and picks them up...all so you can take a quick shower, pick up the baby-sitter, meet some friends at a restaurant, be hurried through a drink and several courses, and then return home in order to get the baby-sitter back at a decent hour.

There is no doubt that technology helps us to do things. For the most part we can't get away from it. However, there are certain things we can do to escape our fast-paced world. Take for instance, eating. When was the last time you truly enjoyed a meal, rather than wolfed down a plate of food as fuel? When was the last time you tasted your food or drink? Try it. Set aside a few hours to prepare, eat, and enjoy a meal. Try a new bottle of wine or a few different types of beer. The goal should not be to finish the meal, but to taste the flavor of each course and enjoy the newness of it.

Bring some leisure back to your life. Pick up an old hobby or start one. (Will our children even know what a hobby is?) We are programmed to do so

*(continued on page 31)*



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# Midwest Breezes



## Sunset Ridge Country Club, Greg Rounds

The greens at Sunset Ridge Country Club were fumigated and seeded to strait A4 in mid August of 2004. Superintendent, Greg Rounds reports that in the first eight weeks of growth, the A4 roots were 5.25 inches deep. When the course re-opened for play the following spring, the root system on the two newly constructed USGA greens was so dense that it was very difficult to even remove a hexagonal plug from the greens.

The A4 variety continues to impress Greg as his greens mature: now in their second full season, the native push up greens at Sunset Ridge required no irrigation from sprinklers this summer – even during the stretch of 90° temperatures experienced in late July. Except for the occasional cycle of water to wash in sand or wetting agents into the native push-up greens, no watering was required for the A4. With Greg's previous work experience involving Poa/Bent putting surfaces,

he has had to completely rethink his concept of irrigation with this grass. The A4 greens can become as hard as a rock, with thoroughly dried out soils beneath, and yet the A4 remains turgid and healthy.

We have heard a lot about the problems of managing the matt below the surface of A4. Greg's program for addressing this issue is to spike and topdress every Monday at approximately twice the amount of sand that is put down by a Scotts spreader. The Waupaca fines free, kiln dried sand is dragged in with a Greens Groomer brush in two directions. This brush is particularly aggressive, hence, Greg has not seen the need to verticut, because the weekly brushing is keeping the canopy open and upright.

*Brad Anderson, CGCS*

*Intricate bunkering surrounding a green at Sunset Ridge Country Club.*





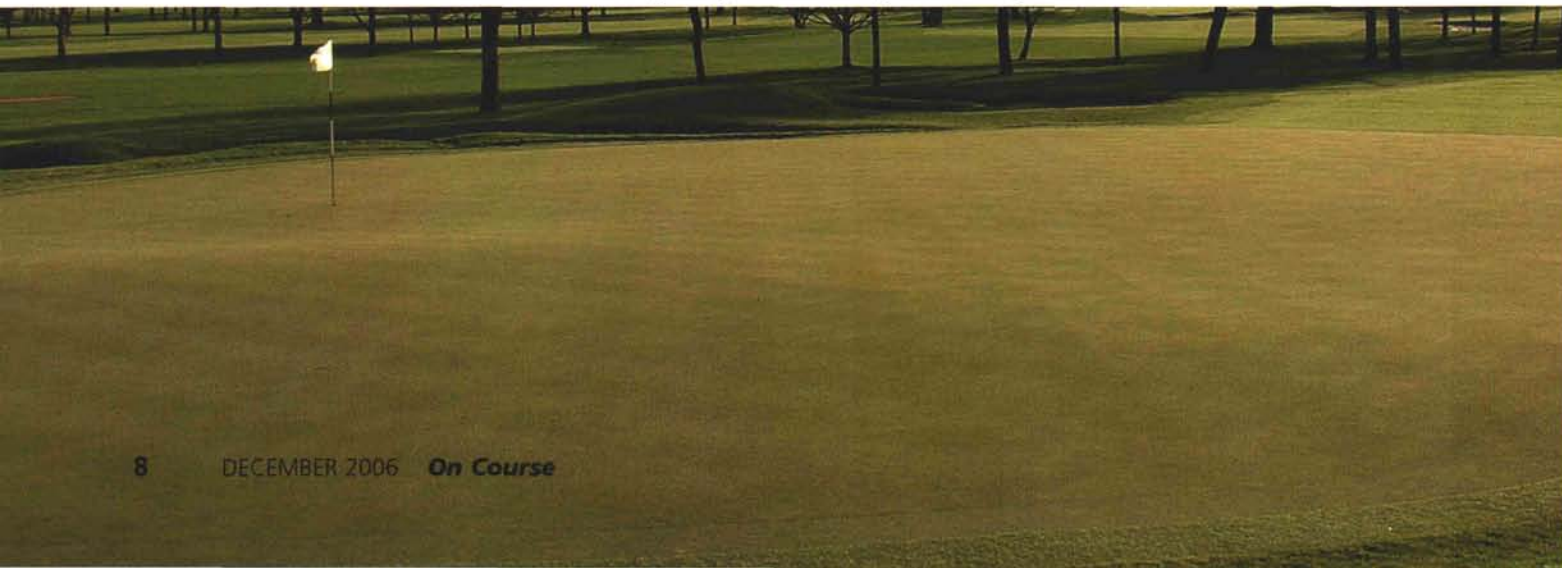


*Assistant Superintendent Blake Meentemeyer stimps one of the newly planted A4 greens at Sunset Ridge.*



*Above: A calm morning overlooking a green at Sunset Ridge.*

*Below: An A4 bentgrass green maturing after two years of life.*





# CDGA Update and the Lance Nematode

The CDGA Research  
Program Update



FIGURE 1

*During spring 2006, I was hired to allow Dr. Randy Kane to transition into the role of Turf Program Advisor. From central Illinois Dr. Kane continued to provide turf diagnostics and assist CDGA staff collect golf course rating data. He will continue to serve in this capacity in 2007. During 2006, the turf staff conducted approximately seven separate field studies, the majority located in Lemont at the CDGA's Sunshine Golf Course. Other research was conducted at two North Chicago locations; fairy ring was studied at Twin Orchard Country Club in Long Grove and dollar spot was studied at North Shore Country Club in Glenview.*

As plans are made for the upcoming year for turf research, the primary interest remains the same: The investigation of pathogenic organisms, and evaluation of techniques to prevent or alleviate disease symptoms to benefit golf course superintendents. Additionally, we also work on other issues such as ways to suppress moss on greens with support by the USGA.

## **The Lance Nematode Research Increases the Density Needed for Bentgrass Injury**

In this report I will share a portion of my turf background that I bring to the CDGA – investigations of nematodes associated with bentgrass greens. This research was conducted during my PhD studies at Kansas State University from 2000 to 2004. I begin by acknowledging the support of three influential scientists and mentors; Drs. Jack Fry and Ned Tisserat, and in particular K-State nematologist Tim Todd. The research focused on the lance nematode, its seasonal population fluctuations, its reproduction among different turfgrass hosts, and its numbers necessary for creeping bentgrass damage.

Nematodes are a diverse group of non-segmented round worms that exist both aquatically and terrestrially with varied sources of food. Of terrestrial nematodes, parasitic root-feeding nematodes are microscopic and are identified by a specialized mouth part; the stylet (**Figure 1**). It allows nematodes to exploit plant roots as a food source. The stylet probes roots and functions in a way similar to a hypodermic needle attached to a syringe. It allows nematodes to both inject and withdraw partially digested cellular contents from roots. Phytoparasitic nematodes are classified by their feeding habit. Nematodes can be either migratory or sedentary as they feed on roots. Nematode orientation to the root surface can be either endo- or ecto-parasitic; they feed either inside or outside of roots and sometimes in between (semi-endoparasitic). In putting greens, the vast majority of root-feeding nematodes commonly encountered are migratory ectoparasites. Sedentary endoparasites of greens are also found, but with much less frequency.

*(continued on page 11)*

*...I will share  
a portion of  
my turf background  
that I bring  
to the CDGA...*



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