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"Course & Grounds—Super to Super" section. The February issue had a feature titled "Green Genes" chronicling the Dinelli family's long and storied involvement in the golf course maintenance field in the Chicagoland area, while subsequent issues featured such stories as "A Lot More Than Turfgrass," where Dan interviewed **Tommy Witt, CGCS** (Northmoor CC) about the many facets of our grand profession. Check out these stories online at [www.clubandresortbusiness.com](http://www.clubandresortbusiness.com).

.....  
Last month the John Deere World Championship golf tournament was held at the magnificent Reynolds Plantation Resort outside of Atlanta, GA. Of local note, the 2 two-man teams that qualified for the big event at Foxford Hills on July 24th—Glen Oak Country Club's **Andy Dauksas** and Greg Newsome, and the Highlands of Elgin's **Brad Legnaioli** and Mike Leman—combined with JW Turf's **Jeff Rehberg** to take 12th place overall. The weather was picture-perfect, the fall colors just about at peak, and the accommodations were 5-star, according to the lucky competitors. Congratulations on that great finish!

.....  
The Annual Assistants Winter Workshop will be presented on February 8th at Golf House in Lemont, but don't let its name keep you away. The day-long seminar, which will feature Mr. Jim McLoughlin and his Strategic Career Planning workshop, is open to all members in all classifications. Watch your mail and e-mail for more information.

.....  
Just a quick explanation: The 3 webcasts mentioned in Dates to Remember are central time, and are 90 minutes in length. They're also available online (thus the name webcast), so you can earn education points naked if that's your thing.

.....  
The squeaky wheel gets the grease after all. For those of you who wrote GCSAA in support of Dr. Bill Meyer for its 2007 Distinguished Service Award, your efforts were not in vain! Dr. Meyer, Director of the Turfgrass Breeding Project at Rutgers University is indeed one of 2 winners of the

prestigious honor, along with Mr. Stan metsker, CGCS, a retired Colorado superintendent. Now Rutgers has another feather in its cap to boast about besides its undefeated football team—congratulations, Dr. Meyer from all of your friends here at MAGCS!

.....  
As if hosting a Major tour event or speaking at an educational Forum are not enough for one season, **Tom Lively, CGCS** and Medinah Country Club were our gracious hosts for the 54th Annual Midwest Turf Clinic and Annual Meeting on the first of November. The day's theme was "Forging Golf Forward," and after an inspirational Annual Meeting (made very bearable by President Hearn's quick and painless run through all the committee reports), morning moderator **Mike Bavier, CGCS** (Inverness GC) got things going. Local golf course architects **Rick Jacobson, Bob Lohmann, Greg Martin**, and **Tim Nugent** took the stage for a round table Q & A session about "What's Steering Golf Architecture." The many facets of modern golf course architecture were frankly discussed, with each participant offering his own views on various topics. I believe after it was all said and done, the common thread was certainly that no golf course can be great if the refreshment cart can not loop it at least 9 times in an 18-hole round. The final question posed by Mr. Bavier provided some of the day's wittier comments—when asked "what is your favorite project?," Tim Nugent replied "the next one,"

while Greg Martin shot it back at Mike with, "Who's your favorite child?"



Host Tom Lively receiving thanks and a MAGCS 25 year pin.



Mike Sprouse receiving a MAGCS 25 year pin.

Mr. Allen James, President of RISE (Responsible Industry for a Safe Environment) followed with his thoughts on "Freedom to Operate in the Future—The Value of Preemption and Grassroots." Mr. James painted a somewhat dim picture of the future of pesticides if current trends continue, stating that anti-pesticide activists rely on emotion, and not science to make their point—a dangerous thing indeed to those of us who rely on plant protectants and use them safely.

(continued on page 24)



Invocation



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Founded in honor of Wayne Otto, CGCS, the Wee One Foundation assists golf course management professionals or their dependents who incur overwhelming expenses due to medical hardship. Through this foundation's work, Wayne's legacy will never be forgotten.



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Allen James of RISE

Following lunch, a little business was conducted before jumping into the afternoon education sessions, such as the presentation of our editorial awards. Unfortunately, there were insufficient submissions of superintendent-written articles in the previous year to present a *Ray Gerber Editorial Award*; on the bright side, though, there were NUMEROUS wonderful submissions from the other classifications which qualified for the *Fred D. Opperman Editorial Award*. Editorial chairman **Scott Witte, CGCS** (Cantigny GC) named Mr. **Raymond Hearn** the 2006 winner for his article that appeared in the May issue titled "The Benefits of a Remodeling Master Plan." Next, **Don Ferreri** (Seven Bridges GC) presented his Chapter Delegate Update, highlighting all the exciting stuff going on at GCSAA. Gary Hearn then performed his last act as president before passing the gavel—that of naming his President's Award for Meritorious Service. This year's winner was **Dr. Randy Kane**, who was unable to be in attendance—more on Randy follows. Our annual election was held, and incredibly, the 4 candidates running for the 4 available seats on the Board ALL won!

The afternoon education session began with a flare—Mr. John Spitzer of the USGA amused the audience with "The Fury of Farther—Teeing Off on Golf's Technology Debate." Along with his humorous use of actual gadgets and inventions submitted to the USGA for approval, John showed some really cool video of a ball being struck by a club in super-slo-mo, and even proved statistically that by the year 2100, the 25th place player in the Masters

will actually WIN the tournament. You had to be there.



John Spitzer of the USGA with his pump up golf spikes.

Next up was Paul Vermeulen and his "Farther Yet—The Superintendent's Role in Golf's Future." Among the things Paul sees as the biggest changes for the future are fairway topdressing programs, standards for tree planting and removals, high-tech irrigation systems, lower and lower still heights of cut, new tee complexes including more forward tees for all to enjoy, and improved (and near perfect) bunker conditioning.

The wrap-up for the day featured something completely different—the improvisational troupe pH Productions and **Keith Krause** (Reinders) presented "pHurther pHrenzy," a game-show-esque improvisational entertainment act which involved the audience and many of the day's earlier themes and topics, making for a very lively finish to the day.

The large crowd in attendance was treated to a day rich in educational value, camaraderie, and fun all thanks to education chair Tony Kalina and his fine committee, Tom Lively and the staff at Medinah, and our great sponsors—**Arthur Clesen, Inc.**, **BTSL**, **JW Turf, Inc.**, **Nadler Golf Car Sales, Inc.**, **Nels J. Johnson Tree Experts, Inc.**, and **Turf Professionals Equipment Company**. Thank you to everyone!

Turf Professionals Equipment Company (TPEC) recently announced a few changes to its management structure. As of October 16th, Bill Koenig went on extended medical leave of absence due to a lifelong

mobility problem that had increasingly worsened. Taking over as president of TPEC is Mike Anderson, president of MTI, another Toro-owned distributor located in Minneapolis, MN. Best wishes to Bill, and welcome to Mike!

How about the year **Dr. Randy Kane** is having, huh? This story is proof positive that absence truly does make the heart grow fonder. The dearly departed (for Peoria) doctor is the recent recipient of not only one, but TWO major league big time hoity-toity proverbial feathers in his cap. At the 54th Annual Midwest Turf Clinic and Annual Meeting on November 1st, President Gary Hearn announced that The Doctah was the winner of the 2006 President's Award for Meritorious Service for his longtime dedication and contributions to MAGCS. Most guys figure that's enough to retire and hang their hat on, right? Wrong! Because not even a month later, this same Doctor Randy Kane was named the winner of the Illinois Turfgrass Foundation's Distinguished Service Award at the 2006 Illinois Professionals Turf Conference in St. Charles on November 29th. As a personal friend and longtime user and abuser of Doc's services and expertise, I offer my most profound and heartfelt thanks and congratulations—a more deserving person for these honors does not exist.



Dr. Randy Kane.

The Chicagoland Association of Golf Course Superintendents held its 22nd Annual Forum at Naperville Country Club (Tim Anderson, CGCS host) on the 9th of November. This



year's theme was Planning, and the impressive lineup of speakers really covered the gamut completely. Starting things off, President **Rick Bowden** presented **Chuck Anfield, CGCS** with the Founder's Cup trophy he earned on October 9th at Park Ridge Country Club (**Joel Purpur, CGCS** host) in the 4th Annual Founder's Cup Tournament.



*Chuck Anfield, CGCS and the Founder's Cup.*

Bill McMahon of the McMahon Group started the day off with a very detailed presentation on "How to Organize and Sell Your Plan," and was followed by Kris Bachtel from the Morton Arboretum who offered his views on "Planning for the Future of Your Trees." Kris' take on the emerald ash borer was very similar to the Dutch Elm disease situation of the past—not all ash trees will be lost, but a large percentage of them unfortunately will. There

have been some positive results from certain insecticide drenches, and Kris feels that resistance in some varieties may help to keep ash trees from total extinction. He also gave some useful guidelines for planting in the future as it relates to the proper trees to plant, and the percentage of the total tree population on a property to consider for each species, genus, and family. Doug Myslinski of Jacobson Golf Course Design then spoke on planning to improve the playability of your golf course, going into detail on several of his more recent projects. A pre-lunch refresher course on financial planning for your future was handled expertly by Mr. Richard Borek with MetLife. After a great lunch, it was back to the planning session with **Jon Jennings, CGCS** and Tom Lively, CGCS detailing their experiences with "Planning for the Big Event." Dr. Derek Settle of the CDGA was next with his thoughts on "Planning Your Disease Control Strategies," followed by **Paul Vermeulen, USGA** Green Section wrapping up the day describing a "Plan to Improve the Agronomics of Your Course." In all, the 50+ members and guests were treated to a fine day of education (while wishing they were out playing golf in the 70° weather in November).

Great job by everyone involved with this forum!



*Dale McMahon of the McMahon Group.*



*Kris Bachtel of the Morton Arboretum.*

*(continued on page 26)*

This will be a one-time thing, so make a copy of it if you find the information useful, OK? The following is a list of pretty much EVERY web site that has even the remotest connection to our industry.

American Society of Landscape Architects—Illinois Chapter ..... [www.il-asla.org](http://www.il-asla.org)  
 Association of Professional Landscape Designers ..... [www.apld.org](http://www.apld.org)  
 Illinois Arborist Association ..... [www.illinoisarborist.org](http://www.illinoisarborist.org)  
 Illinois Christmas Tree Association ..... [www.ilchristmastrees.com](http://www.ilchristmastrees.com)  
 Illinois Landscape Contractors Association ..... [www.ilca.net](http://www.ilca.net)  
 Illinois Nurserymen's Association ..... [www.ina-online.org](http://www.ina-online.org)  
 Illinois Park and Recreation Association ..... [www.il-ipra.org](http://www.il-ipra.org)  
 Illinois State Florists' Association ..... [www.illinoisflorists.org](http://www.illinoisflorists.org)  
 Illinois Turfgrass Foundation ..... [www.illinoisturfgrassfoundation.org](http://www.illinoisturfgrassfoundation.org)  
 Ornamental Growers Association of Northern Illinois ..... [www.ogaoni.com](http://www.ogaoni.com)  
 RISE ..... [www.pestfacts.org](http://www.pestfacts.org)  
 Sod Growers Association of Mid-America ..... [www.turfgrasssod.org](http://www.turfgrasssod.org)  
 Sports Turf Managers Association ..... [www.sportsturfmanager.com](http://www.sportsturfmanager.com)  
 University of Illinois Extension ..... [www.extension.uiuc.edu](http://www.extension.uiuc.edu)  
 University of Illinois Agricultural Experiment Station ..... [www.ag.uiuc.edu/iaes.html](http://www.ag.uiuc.edu/iaes.html)  
 University of Illinois Dept. of Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences ... [www.nres.uiuc.edu](http://www.nres.uiuc.edu)

*Surf's UP!*





*Doug Myslinski of  
Jacobson Golf Course Design.*

Having mentioned Paul Vermeulen, congratulations are in order to our longtime USGA Green Section agronomist on his recent announcement. Paul has accepted a position as PGA Tour Agronomist, and will soon be moving to Florida to begin his new (and LAST, he hopes) career adventure. Paul looks forward to this new challenge, and wishes all of his friends here in the Chicago area all his best.

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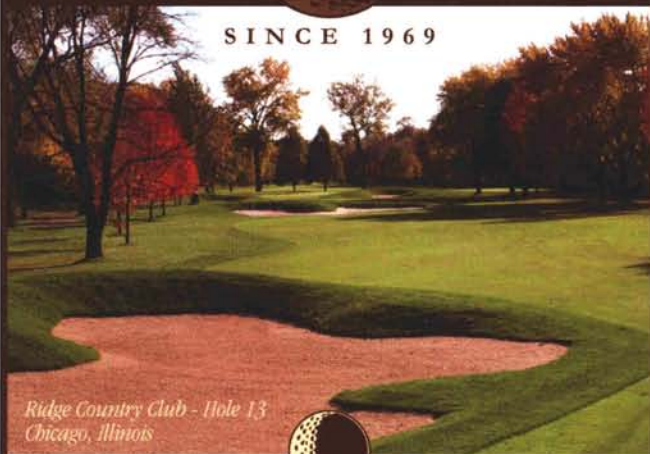
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**Attention Skiers!** Anyone interested in going skiing at Cascade Mountain in Portage WI on Jan. 16th? **Ken Shepherd** and **Scott White** are putting together this day trip. Check out [cascademountain.com](http://cascademountain.com) for info on the slope - 15 people or more and tickets are \$32 or less. Please contact Scott White via email [purdueturf@comcast.net](mailto:purdueturf@comcast.net) with any questions.



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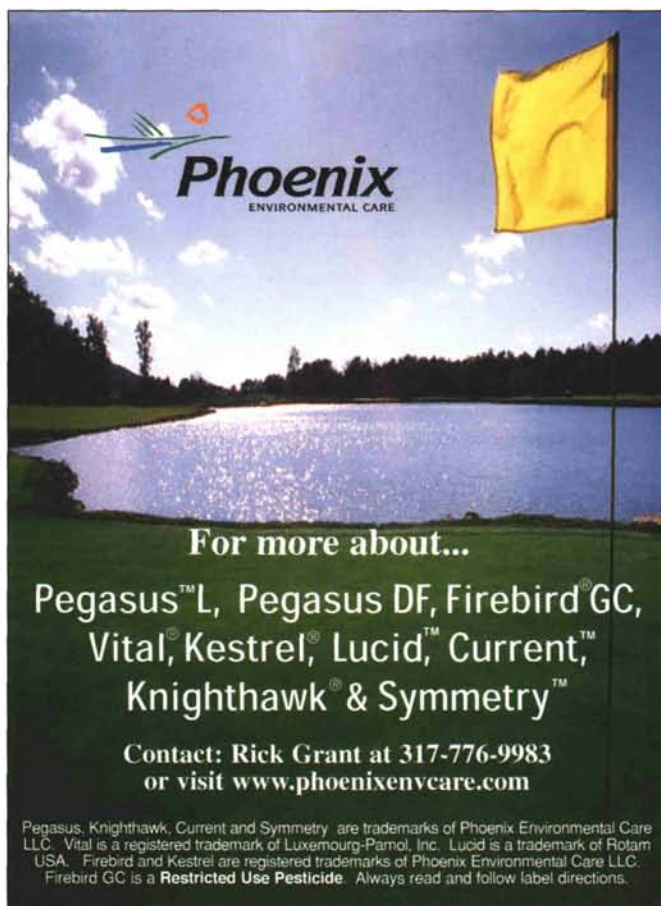



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## November

*The 54th Annual Midwest Turf Clinic was held at Medinah Country Club, on November 1, 2006. The theme for this year's clinic was the future of golf. Tony Kalina and his committee are to be congratulated for organizing and bringing together an outstanding group of speakers.*

Michael Bavier, CGCS, moderated an engaging and lively morning session, beginning with a panel of four Chicago-area golf course architects: Mr. Bob Lohmann, Mr. Tim Nugent, Mr. Rick Jacobsen, and Mr. Greg Martin. They responded to the following questions:

### **How is technology steering golf course architecture?**

Lohmann: We need to remember the 80% of golfers who are not benefiting from the advances in equipment technology; our designs need to provide enjoyment for the less skilled golfers too. We should also be aware of the maintenance equipment that the golf course superintendent has, so that we do not design more than his resources can manage. We need to look at the technology from both ends.

### **How do architects accommodate for playability?**

Martin: Golf is essentially about fun and friendship. With that in mind, our objective is to provide golf courses that people can enjoy playing with their friends.

Lohmann: Multiple tees can be very helpful in making a course more playable, but you do have to educate the golfer to play from the right tees.

Nugent: In the last ten years we have begun to see more open design in golf, where multiple routes are presented to players, as opposed to the bowling-alley-style golf hole. We are also using mounding as backstops to help the golfer keep the ball in play.

Lohmann: Poorly planted trees have grown up to where they are killing the grass and blocking the shots of poorer players. But golfers are starting to understand the benefits of tree removal for more angles and open views.

Jacobsen: Trees on golf courses do more to hurt the less able golfer than they do to defend the golf hole.

### **What are the biggest mistakes in remodeling?**

Martin: Using length only to drive a remodel is a bad idea. Length alone can do very little to make a golf course truly better.

Nugent: Prolonging a project over too many years. Eventually a club loses patience with being under construction.

Jacobsen: Some common mistakes in remodeling are: not budgeting enough to do a project right the first time; unrealistic expectations for the grow-in time; poor planning of the sequence of work, such as installing a new

*(continued on page 30)*



irrigation system ahead of bunker renovation and then having to relocate the new pipe and sprinklers.

Lohmann: It is important to have a complete set of plans, plus the oversight of the architect during the actual construction. Some private clubs try to work off simple schematics with no plans and the end results are often very poor. Public clubs are bound, by law, to work from detailed plans, but they are also obligated to use the lowest bidder as contractor. This often creates problems with quality control.

### **How do you handle projects that are done on a low budget with limited resources?**

Jacobsen: If the funding is not available to do a job right the first time, then it is better to hold off until the funding is adequate.

Lohmann: If you have a good plan, you can attack the project in the proper order, from the ground up. You can do the work in phases, beginning with drainage which is the most vital component of a healthy and playable golf course.

Nugent: When we are called to a club it is usually because there is an immediate problem; something has to be done now. But if your budget is limited, you should consider scheduling the work for mid-summer, when most contractors are idle. You may secure a premium contractor for a better price.

Jacobsen: One reason why budget is so often limited is because the club does not consider their course to be worthy of investment. In these instances, if you provide an improvement which is highly visible, the project may then gather momentum and commitment.

Our next speaker in the morning session was **Allen James**, President of **RISE** (Responsible Industry for a Sound Environment), an association representing manufacturers, distributors, and other industry leaders involved with specialty pesticide and fertilizer products.

Mr. James spoke to us about the significant increase in localities attempting to "re-regulate" pesticides that are already thoroughly regulated by federal and state agencies. Not only are such efforts unnecessary, they restrict consumer and professional applicator choices for products proven to be safe and effective.

RISE has recently appointed Stacy Pine [spine@dclrs.com](mailto:spine@dclrs.com) to develop and manage a grassroots program for preventing and challenging local attempts to restrict product choice. In the newly created position, Pine will manage industry issues at the municipality level in cities and towns across the country. She will work closely with key RISE allies at the national, state, and local level to ensure that the specialty pest management and fertilizer products used by professionals will remain available for purchase and use.

James encouraged our association to appoint a representative to work with RISE and to develop a team for monitoring and responding to these issues at our local level.

After a delightful lunch, **Ed Fischer**, CGCS, moderated the afternoon session, beginning with **John Spitzer**, Assistant Technical Director of the Research and

Test Center with the **USGA**. Mr. Spitzer spoke to us about his role in monitoring closely the effects of advancing equipment technology on the playing of the game.

It is of the greatest importance to golf's continuing appeal that advances in equipment technology are measured against a clear and broadly accepted series of principles jointly agreed upon by the R&A and the USGA. The purpose of the equipment rules is to protect golf's best traditions, to prevent an over-reliance on technological advances rather than skill, and to ensure that skill is the dominant element of success throughout the game.

Our final speaker for the afternoon session was **Paul Vermeulen**, who has served as USGA Green Section Agronomist for the Mid-Continent Region since 1996.

Ed Fischer, CGCS, announced that Vermeulen has very recently accepted the position of Agronomist with the PGA Tour. We will all certainly miss Paul Vermeulen. He has been a great supporter of the golf course superintendent, and we wish him success in his new appointment. Mr. Vermeulen spoke to us on the superintendent's role in golf's future.

When Paul began calling on golf courses in the region, fairways were generally being cut at .500, but today it is not unusual to find fairways that are cut at .350. Though the trend is not necessarily for shorter fairways – what we are seeing on the horizon is a demand for more consistent and more accessible fairways. Sand topdressing and deep tining are providing fairways that dry out faster after rainfall. And when these two practices are combined, the need to aerify with conventional, hollow-tine core aerification may be abated, making the fairways more accessible throughout the entire golf season.

Not surprisingly, the trend on putting greens is for higher levels of quality and performance.

The irrigation of golf courses is moving toward more sprinklers than ever before, for greater control of uniformity.

Bunkers are being positioned further up the hole, and we are beginning to see more and more of these bunkers near the center of the corridor. In the last ten years, the playing condition of the bunkers has become the number one topic of discussion with the USGA Agronomist during his turf-advisory visits. The trend is for extensive drainage systems and fabric in bunkers. Special grade sand is coming from pits that are hundreds of miles from the club. There are clubs that have paid up to \$120 per ton for bunker sand.

Perhaps the most refreshing trend is the willingness of clubs to remove trees that have either grown into the line of ball flight, or shade the turf too extensively. Ten years ago, the subject of tree removal on golf courses was taboo. With each passing year, the discussion becomes easier.

