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FRONT COVER

Kane County Cougar's Elfstrom Stadium in Geneva on a warm summer night.
(photo credit: Luke Cella)

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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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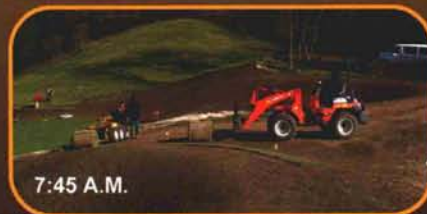
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ON COURSE WITH THE PRESIDENT

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BOOM, BANG – OOOOOOOOOOOOOO

THE MID-SUMMER CLASSIC

I think by now my ears have stopped ringing from the 4th of July fireworks, Mary and I attended a couple of local festivals over the July 4th holidays and enjoyed the local flavor and great music. We were able to spend some time with family and friends and we also got to see the Doobie Brothers and REO Speedwagon perform; flash back to the '70s – black lights & lava lamps.

July is a great month to spend time with family and friends. Hopefully you were able to catch up with rough mowing spurned on by our spring rains and had some time to share. I try to get away when I can, knowing that the 'dog days' of summer are just around the corner. In the back of my mind I know I will start to lose some staff as well (sorry to bring that up).

Chicago is a great place for culture and entertainment. I try to enjoy some of the activities like: Taste of Chicago, Buckingham Fountain at night time, Navy Pier, the Tall Ships, a Lake Michigan Cruise and both baseball teams. Mary likes the Cubs, that explains both. Every summer I try to spend a weekend in Chicago and stay at a fancy hotel and enjoy all the amenities. I love being pampered. That same weekend I enjoy shopping, great restaurants, a horse & buggy ride by Michigan Tower, and all the nightlife the city has to offer. The small pleasures make life very spicy.

Speaking of family, my Dad had a successful operation to remove a small sac in his right lung in early June. This lump was non-malignant and hopefully by August he will be swinging a golf club and working his golf scores into the high 70s.

Hopefully you will take some time off to spend with your family and friends, or perhaps spent a few hours at the Western Open at Cog Hill. This event always has a great field of excellent and talented golfers that will draw a large, enthusiastic crowd. I hope to see most of you at the Cougar Game on July 15. Bring the entire family and plan to have a great time. Hopefully your ears will be ready for more fireworks.

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Good Times!

You know you had great time at one of the monthly golf meetings when you need to call fellow superintendents the evening of the event and tell them about your day. Well that happened to me recently. On May 22nd Dave Behrman, CGCS and MAGCS past president, hosted an ITF/MAGCS meeting. Midlothian Country Club is Dave's pride and joy. I have talked to Dave several times about his club and even sat through a seminar in Atlanta this past February in which he described the work that was going on at Midlothian. Well David..."you done well!"


*"... this little
"snack session"
was more like
Thanksgiving
Dinner, Christmas
Dinner and
Cinco de Mayo
combined!"*

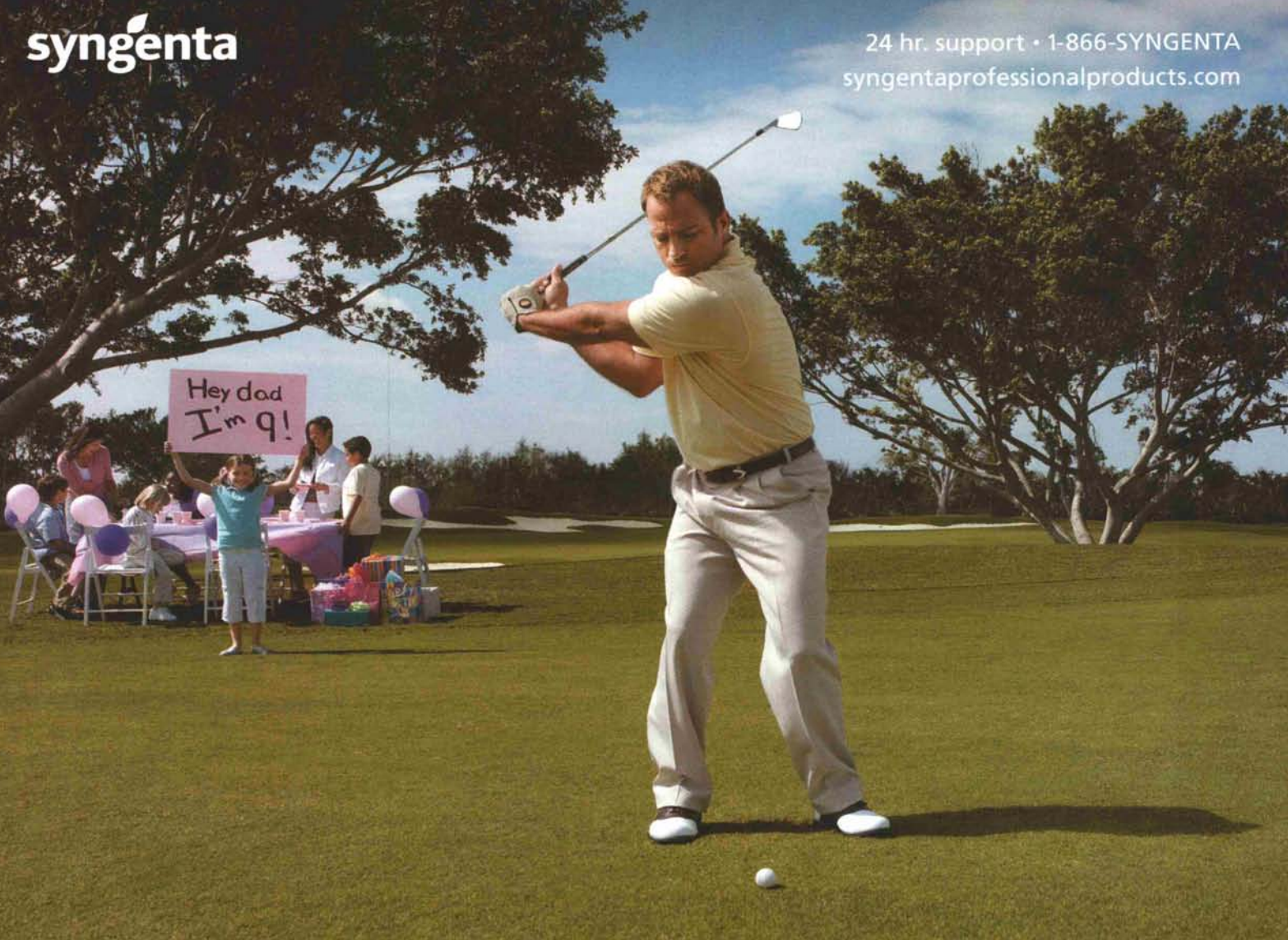
Not only was the golf course in "mid season" form but all of the other details were carried out like it was Midlothian's member-guest day. It started out with a great breakfast that included made to order omelets. I thought Emeril was going to pop out of the kitchen at any minute. Once everyone was fed and got in a little practice, the golf began. My group started on the 10th tee. While we were waiting for the group ahead of us, I noticed coolers near the tee. They were filled with many different kinds of cold beverages. Several tees on the course had this same set up and I know that many golfers appreciated having a cold drink when they needed one. I noticed one young man who seemed to be the "cooler filler". I stopped him at one point of the round to give him a few George Washington's for all of his efforts. He took the money but also informed me that he does also take debit cards! Turns out the "cooler filler" was Dave's son Ben. Bright kid! He should go into sales.

At the mid way point of our round each golfer was treated not only to their favorite burger, brat or dog off of the grill but also a chance to chat with Tom Voigt and Tom Fermanian from the University of Illinois. The boys grilled all of those golfers who have high school seniors as to where our children will be attending school this fall. "My son is going to Depauw University," I stated. Voigt with worry in his voice asked, "How are we going to pay for Coach Weber's contract extension?" "Sounds like time for a bake sale in the Horticulture Department," I answered back.

One of my favorite things to do at any MAGCS monthly is to give the girls at the betting holes some of my well-earned cash. It is time to thank Sharon, Patty, Marsha, Danna and Jen for all they do. They give up a lot of their time to raise money for a great cause. I think I will be their "gopher" at the next event. Considering my golf game it would be time a lot better spent.

After our round of golf on what I think is one of the nicest courses I have ever played was over, we all adjourned to the clubhouse for cocktails and Hors D'oeuvres. Let me tell you, this little "snack session" was more like Thanksgiving Dinner, Christmas Dinner and Cinco de Mayo combined! There was a carving area with hams and turkeys and beefs. There was another area that offered several different types of mashed potatoes and gravy. Still there was a salad bar, a taco bar and a complete pasta station. And the desert area was bigger than my practice green at Geneva. All I could think of was where are my Ziploc bags when I need them?

Dave Behrman was presented a token of everyone's appreciation at the end of the day. One of the things that Dave pointed out was that he would only come on board at Midlothian if things were going to be done the right way. Well since 1996 it looks like mission accomplished to me! A big thank you from the MAGCS Past Presidents Council for all who want this Association to be run the right way! 



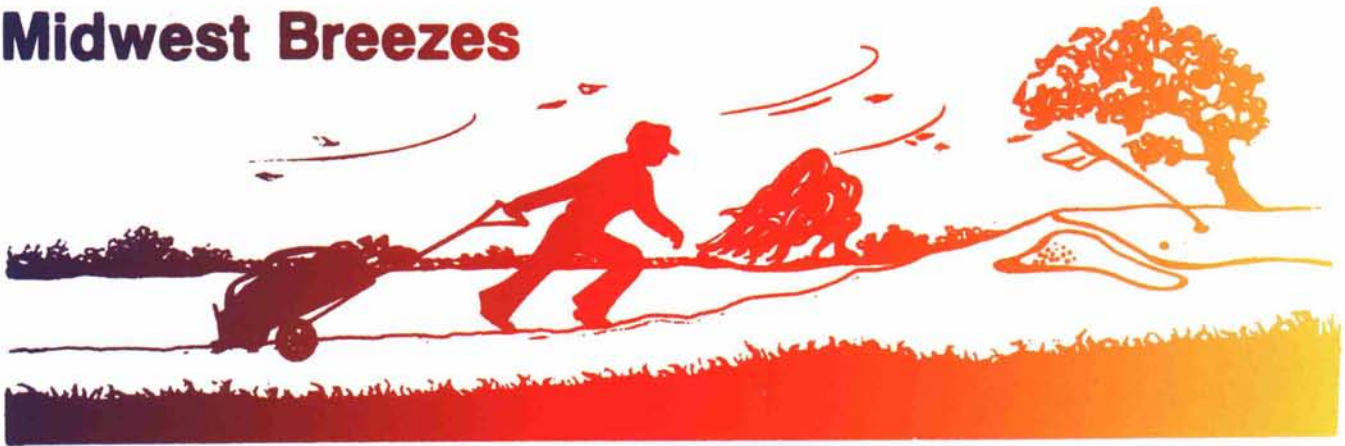
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Midwest Breezes



Recently at the Chicago Botanical Gardens in Glen-coe, I noticed that the gardeners were mulching with a compost that was made up of screened and shredded decaying tree leaves. I was surprised to learn that this material could be purchased by the truckload from DK Organics in Lake Bluff. I am now using this material in all of the places where I have traditionally used shredded hardwood mulch.

- The color and texture of the leaf compost is similar to cocoa bean-hulls mulch.
- Many of my beds have been covered for 4 weeks now, and the rich, dark color has not faded from exposure to the sun.
- The material seems to hold moisture in our annual flowerbeds more effectively than hardwood mulch has in the past.

- The material is doing a comparable job of discouraging weed germination
- Other than an occasional small twig in the mix, the leaf compost has no wood-fiber content to rob the soil of nitrogen
- Leaf compost withstands washout. There are no buoyant woody solids in leaf compost to float or gather at the bottom of a sloped landscape.
- I am planning to roto-till the leaf compost into the soils of my annual flowerbeds, next spring, prior to planting. I anticipate that this should replace the organic matter to the soil structure which annual flowers tend to deplete over time.

*Brad Anderson, CGCS
Midlane Country Club*

(continued on page 9)



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Wynstone's Ted Fist Takes Innovative Approach to Bunker Drainage

Wynstone Golf Club's original bunkers have become contaminated with sediment run-off over the years. In addition, the original faces of most greenside bunker have deepened with seasonal erosion. This degradation has led to an uncontrollable buried lie problem on the course.

Ted Fist, Golf Course Superintendent of Wynstone, plans to remediate these problems. Prior to renovating each bunker on the course, Ted has begun preliminary testing of various methods and products on two new bunkers, recently constructed by National Golf Builders and drawn up by Nicklaus Design.

Two layers of fabric material were used inside the bunker cavity: the first layer on the bunker floor is Mirafi Filterweave 402, a woven monofilament liner, that will keep clay from migrating upwards into the sand. Over this layer, Ted installed Sand Mat liner for erosion control of the sand.

No pea gravel was used to fill in the trenches. Instead, Ted chose to use an ADS product called BIO2 Diffuser which comes in pieces 15 inches high, 12 inches wide, and 87 inches long. The BIO2 Diffuser was placed into the drain trenches as a chamber system. The outflow drain pipe was connected to the BIO2 Diffuser. Ted explains, "the price of the sand was so high (\$78 ton delivered) I felt this was a good way to cut costs, and to also eliminate the possibility of pea gravel from migrating into the new sand."

The newly remodeled bunkers were filled with Pro-Angle sand at a depth of six inches at the base and approximately two inches on the edges and high flashes. Ted states that "so far the bunkers have not washed out at all even with the heavier rains that we have had this past couple of months." With the success of this innovative approach Ted plans to eventually use this system in every bunker on the golf course.

*Rob Nixon, Assistant Superintendent
Barrington Hills Country Club*



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