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The second hole at Sunshine Course, home of the Chicago District Golf Association and the headquarters of MAGCS. (Cover image courtesy of the CDGA.)

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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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Rites of Spring – Changes Ahead

On behalf of the MAGCS Board, I would like to begin by wishing Cathy Miles Ralston much success in future endeavors. Ralston brought professional style to the magazine as Editor for the past seven years. She elevated On Course to a higher standard of quality and presentation. Ralston’s guidance and excellence in journalism are certainly appreciated. I wish her the best of luck.

Through much thought and deliberation, MAGCS Board and I decided to seek another direction with On Course by contracting the management of the magazine with Luke Cella, our Executive Director. This magazine is one of the Association’s greatest assets. The Board and I felt that centralization of the management of On Course with the management of the affairs of the Association will streamline both operations. As we have seen the management of the Association reach new levels in recent years, I look forward to the future of On Course with Luke at the helm.

Atlanta Show

I trust everyone had a great time in Atlanta during the Golf Industry Show. I also hope that you indulged yourself at one or both of the Hospitality Receptions. I would like to thank our most generous sponsors for making those two events successful. When I return from the Golf Industry Show my head is always full of new ideas and theories. I always hope I am able to digest and incorporate all that I have seen into my scheme and plans for my golf course.

My biggest enjoyment from the show is just meeting colleagues and spending time with friends. As you get older, these precious moments – being brief, tend to shape your existence. I would like to congratulate Dr. Joe Duich, Professor Emeritus at Penn State University, on winning this year’s Old Tom Morris Award.

New Life

Spring is in the air and this is one of the best times of the year. I enjoy the ‘smell’ of freshness and knowing that the new season is just around the corner. Spring brings in new life as tree buds are swelling, grass is turning green, crocuses are blooming and wildlife becomes more abundant.
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Be Brave, 
Host An Event

The Midwest’s 2006 golf season is nearly here, which means another Conference and Show is right around the corner. The difference this year is the weather that we are experiencing. I had more rain in January of 2006 than all of last June and August combined. I am not too sure what the 18 days of temperatures above 40 degrees we’ve had in the last month will do to turf conditions, however, I know the ground is too soft to do any of the usual winter projects this year like tree pruning.

I sit here trying to decide whether to fire up the sprayer for another snow mold application or a greens mower to remove some of the growth accumulated over this mild winter. I’m not certain we will get another snow cover, only time will tell. Winter doesn’t usually pass us over like this. Maybe the worse is yet to come. I am looking forward to some winter weather to slow down those avid golfers a bit. It just seems like the “down time” has become shorter year after year.

As chairman of the Arrangements Committee, I now have the privilege of setting up our events for the year. Maybe one reason why the winter months seemed to have slipped away is the fact that I have been busy lining up this year’s sites and making the necessary arrangements.

The only event we do not have a definitive site for is the Fall Dinner Dance (hint, hint). I’m finding quickly the most challenging task of my position is finding sites for our future events. All of us have heard this before, but the fact is if individuals do not volunteer to host events the events cannot take place. Whether it is one of our golf events, a January meeting, or the Fall Dinner Dance, we are always looking for sites for MAGCS events.

For those of you who have hosted an event, and some of you more than once, Thank You! The rest of you: be bold, be brave, host an event. With the quality members we have in our association, finding host sites should not be this difficult. If you are interested in hosting an event, just give me a call.

---

“For those of you who have hosted an event, and some of you more than once, Thank You!”

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**THIS YEAR’S REMAINING EVENTS.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thursday, February 23:</td>
<td>Assistants Workshop at Golf House</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, March 2:</td>
<td>Midwest Golf House- Seminar</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday, April 24:</td>
<td>Chuck Anfield and Heritage Bluffs Golf Club</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday, May 22:</td>
<td>ITF/MAGCS-Dave Behrman and Midlothian Country Club</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, June 7:</td>
<td>Chad Walk and Old Oak Country Club</td>
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<td>Saturday, July 15:</td>
<td>Kane County Cougar game</td>
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<td>Monday, August 21:</td>
<td>Bill Humphres and McHenry Country Club</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday, September 25:</td>
<td>Chris Blake and McKray Memorial Golf Club</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday, October 2:</td>
<td>ITF/MAGCS-Tom Prichard and Ivanhoe Country Club</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, November 1:</td>
<td>Tom Lively and Medinah Country Club MAGCS Turf Clinic</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday, November 18:</td>
<td>TBA- Fall Dinner Dance</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percent Control</th>
<th>0.25 lb ai/A</th>
<th>0.38 lb ai/A</th>
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<td>WP - Wettable Powder</td>
<td>EC - Emulsifiable Concentrate</td>
<td>FG - Fertilizer Granule</td>
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Chris Painter –N–

The most interesting adjustment that Chris has had to make at the Sunshine Course has been the fact that he is now cultivating disease as well as turf.


He started out as the turf equipment technician, became a plant health care technician and finally earned the roll of assistant superintendent at the Youth Links in 1995. During Chris’s time at Cantigny, he studied hard and completed his studies in Turfgrass Management at Joliet Junior College.

In 2002, Chris got his first head superintendent position at Downers Grove Golf Club where he stayed until 2005. Since then, Chris has been at the CDGA’s Three-Hole Sunshine Course serving as Superintendent and Facility Manager.

As a true south-sider, Chris is a proud White Sox fan and resides in Chicago. He is currently in the process of building a home in Lockport with his girlfriend Heather and her son Zachary. Chris has been performing the role of contractor for the home, and has encountered many challenges along the way.

He has always been a “jack of all trades”, and is always the guy to call when I get stuck on a project. No matter what the challenge, I always admire Chris’s “can do attitude”.

Chris’s “jack of all trades” abilities have served the CDGA well as he is always helping out with various projects throughout the grounds and facilities at Midwest Golf House. You might find him repairing light fixtures, working with the HVAC system or acting as an intermediary for the CDGA meeting with several contractors.

The most interesting adjustment that Chris has had to make at the Sunshine Course has been the fact that he is now cultivating disease as well as turf.

“It’s always interesting to see Randy Kane and Lee Miller’s eyes light up when they’ve got some good dollar-spot or brown patch brewing,” said Painter. Chris just has to restrain himself and look the other way as the pathogens do their thing. He waits patiently until Randy and Lee agree it is time to spray.

Chris admits the best part of his job is being able to see some things you normally do not get to see as a superintendent. He gets to see first hand how all the different varieties of turf respond to normal and extreme conditions. Much can be learned from watching the natural progression of turfgrass diseases in different varieties of turf.

There also are times when Chris goes on site visits with Randy and Lee. (continued on page 8)
It helps for him to see that as superintendents.

"We are all kind of the same", Painter said. "We all face the same challenges from time to time, and we all get stuck once in a while. It is based on the realization that mother-nature has a tendency to keep any superintendent second-guessing from time to time."

Chris thinks it is a joy to see other superintendent’s willingness to give Randy and Lee a call for some back-up and take advantage of CDGA’s ability to help.

Chris is a big believer in learning by doing. He has gained tremendous experience over the last 22 years by working with individuals from whom he knew he could learn.

He especially enjoys working with Carl Hopphan. Carl is the Director of Development for the Illinois Turfgrass Foundation. Chris has a tremendous amount of respect for the energy and passion that Carl brings to the table on a day to day basis. Seeing Carl’s relentless pursuit of his vision for excellence at the Sunshine Course has really inspired him.

"It’s easy to get energized when I’m around Carl,” Painter affirms.

When Chris is not spending time on the golf course, he escapes his normal routine by going to his house in Silver Lake, Mich. Of course there is never a shortage of projects for Chris to dive into.

This wonderful getaway retreat has been Chris’s special project over the last several years. He has spent countless hours refining his creation for himself and those closest to him.

So while we are on the topic of “those closest to him.” I’ll take the time to say that I have known Chris for eleven years now. Not only has Chris been a joy to work with, but he’s always been a great friend with whom I enjoy spending “time away from turf!”

Thank you for that Chris. We’ll see you at Midwest Golf House.
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