



Wes Danielewicz

# Factory Training

## What is it? Is it worth it?

*This past March, I was given the opportunity to attend the John Deere Fleet Customer Factory Technical Training School in North Carolina. In the twenty-six years I have been in this industry this is the sixth such school I have attended. I have gone to the Jacobson Factory in Racine, Wisconsin twice, the Toro Factory in Minneapolis, Minnesota, the Cushman factory in Lincoln, Nebraska and Club Car factory in Atlanta, Georgia. Each and every one of these schools has been of great value to me as well as my employer(s). Attending these schools deepened my knowledge of a particular manufacturer's equipment. Furthermore, the experience provided invaluable information to diagnose and troubleshoot specific electrical and hydraulic systems no matter the brand or color of equipment.*

While it has been over ten years since I last attended a factory service school, which by the way, is before they started putting electronic control modules on equipment, it was a great experience and I'm happy that I was able to take advantage of this opportunity. The information passed on at any factory training school is astonishing, especially in the short amount of time that you are actually there.

The first day at John Deere began with a brief history of the company. Did you know that Deere has only been in the Golf & Turf Industry since 1987? It is apparent that John Deere has made some extensive changes to their equipment since their early beginnings and continues to do so today. The rest of the day was spent covering the fundamentals of electrical and hydraulic systems. We learned all the symbols found in electrical and hydraulic schematics. The day ended with a trip to the factory shop where a John Deere 2653A utility mower was staged. The mower had numbers placed on individual electrical components and attendees needed to identify each part on a worksheet. The same exercise was done on hydraulic components, the only difference was one needed to determine where the component received its oil from and where it flowed to next.

Day two was spent on the 2500A triplex greens mower. We started with a brief overview of the electrical and hydraulic schematics followed by a trip to the shop where there were three 2500s set up with electrical and hydraulic problems. Participants were split into groups to diagnose and identify the problems on each of the assigned machines. The object of this exercise was not just to find the problem, but to diagnose the problem in a systematic approach called "What's Normal?" This theme continued throughout the rest of the training and taught the attendees to diagnose problems from the standpoint of how a machine should operate properly. This procedure of asking "What's Normal?" forces the technician to know how a machine operates properly. Once proper operation is known, problematic issues can

*(continued on page 32)*



*This is the 2500A minus hydraulic reel motors, hoses, lift valve etc. This unit eliminates 160 potential leak points.*



be measured, diagnosed and corrected. After learning this practice, knowing how to read the electrical and/or hydraulic schematic becomes of great importance. Not to mention, knowing where particular components are located helps as well.

Day three began with an overview of the 3225C and 3235C fairway mowers and the 3245C rotary mower. Once again, electrical and hydraulic component location and diagnosis of various problems in each of these machines were the focus of the morning. A brief overview of the Aercore 800 aerator was covered followed by an overview of the redesigned THX Gator. We spent the

afternoon on a tour of the John Deere Factory where we saw the assembly lines for the 2653A, 2500A, 3225C, 3235C and 3245C.

Attending the John Deere factory school is an experience I will never forget. The event was one of great magnitude that will help me to view electrical and hydraulic problems with broader insights than ever before. It will encourage me to look at a specific problem and begin the thought process of "What's Normal?". I know it will save me time and reduce equipment down time in the future.

For those of you who have never been to a factory service school, I recommend finding a way to attend one.

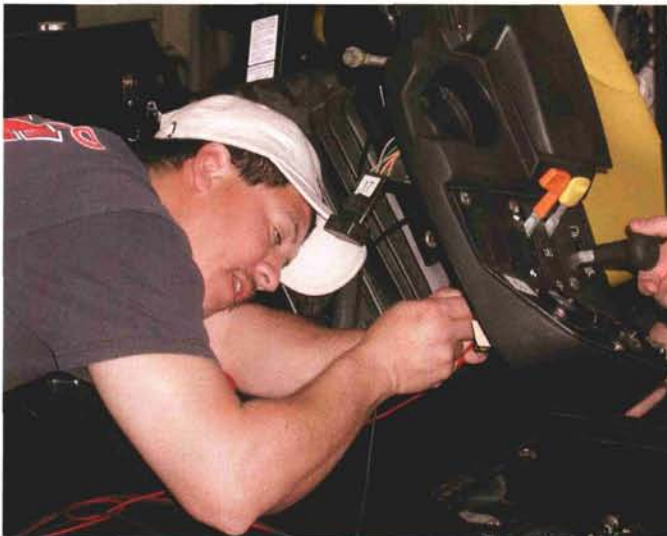
It does not matter if it is a Jacobsen, John Deere or Toro factory school. It will benefit you and the facility you work for in many ways. However, when you do go, try to keep in mind that you are there to get something out of the class. That should be your main objective for your entire stay. Limit your extra curricular activities to a minimum, especially the late nights. Don't make your time there a social event but an opportunity to gain knowledge. What you put in is what you get out. There is so much information coming your way, you need to be at 110% to allow the data a chance to register in your memory banks. Attending a factory service school is a



JD 2653A



Group working to diagnose 3225C Fairway mower



Gilbert Trujillo of Rio Grande Golf Club, South Fork, CO. gets into the job



Mark Schumaker - JD Training Instructor - Instructs



privilege and should not be taken lightly. Not only are representing the course or company you work for, but the distributor that sponsored you to attend. There is a great deal of material covered in a short amount of time and your attention will only benefit you in the long run.

I would like to thank JW Turf, Inc. for allowing me this privilege and my employer, the Forest Preserve District of Dupage County for making it possible.



*The event . . . will help me to view electrical and hydraulic problems with broader insights than ever before.*



Group looking over electrical schematics

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## MIDWEST PERSONALITIES



Name: **Alan Perkinson**  
 Course/Club/Company: **Broken Arrow Golf Club**  
 Job Title: **General Manager**  
 MAGCS member since: **1997**  
 Date of Birth: **04/14/74**  
 Place of Birth: **Danville, IL**  
 Current Residence: **Lockport, IL**  
 College/Degree: **B.S. in Ornamental Horticulture, Univ. of IL @ UC**  
 Spouse/Children: **wife Kerry; sons Caleb and Benjamin; daughters Hannah and Sarah**  
 My favorite childhood memory is: **swimming in San Antonio's Alamo on a family vacation**  
 My personal hero: **Mike Lavin (Broken Arrow Golf Club mechanic)**  
 My professional mentors: **Jeff Leuzinger (U of IL alum and took a chance on me) and Ken Shepherd**  
 Favorite Actor: **Mel Gibson**  
 Favorite Musical Performer: **Chris Rice**  
 Favorite Restaurant: **Mongolian Barbeque**  
 Favorite "Pig Out" Food: **Anything Mexican**  
 Favorite TV Show: **The Apprentice**  
 Favorite Color: **Green**

Favorite Professional Sports Team: **Da Bears**  
 Favorite Pro Athlete: **Dwayne Wade**  
 Favorite Pro Golfer: **Gary Player**  
 My Handicap Index: **Never established but it'd be 20**  
 My favorite place to play golf is: **Glen View Club**  
 My best/most memorable round ever: **Indian Creek, Omaha, NE with my dad and brother**  
 The most interesting/exotic place I've ever traveled is: **San Diego**  
 The book I've been recommending lately: **Love and Respect, by Dr. Emerson Eggerich**  
 The last great movie I saw was: **Narnia**  
 In my spare time, I enjoy: **Any time hanging out with my wife and children**  
 Three words that best describe me: **Fair, determined, loyal**  
 What I enjoy most about my job: **The variety, and ever-present challenges**  
 What I dislike about my job: **Unreasonable player expectations**  
 I'm a Midwest member because: **I enjoy the friendship and fellowship of my peers (definitely I will consider MAGCS as my peers no matter if my job title changes.)**



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# News from the inside of MAGCS

- Fresh from the MAGCS Board of Director Meeting in April – the board approved the GCSAA’s request to include the definition of a golf course superintendent in all affiliated chapter by-laws. Look for a vote this November at our annual meeting to approve the verbiage: “A golf course superintendent is one who is entrusted with the management and operation of the tract of land defined as a golf course, including involvement in construction and maintenance of golf courses and related equipment.”  
If there is any discussion on this point, please direct it to Phil Zeinert, CGCS, Chairman of the By-Law Committee.
- All MAGCS Member’s should have received their membership certificate and membership card as well as the new directory by now. If not, please call and we will send you one out ASAP.
- Did you sign up for email delivery of MAGCS information and haven’t seen anything from MAGCS? Check your junk email folder. Some of the mail servers think we are spammers (not sure why, we only sell career advancement and good times at our monthly meetings). If you find one of our emails in your junk email folder, right click on it and scroll down to “add sender to safe sender list” to ensure you see all of the emails coming from MAGCS in the future.
- Got PDI? GCSAA’s first mass renewal deadline is July 1, 2006 for the first group of Golf Course Superintendents to keep their Class A status. If you need help please contact GCSAA member services at 800-472-7878 or call MAGCS office 630-243-7900. Don’t forget to register your pesticide license; it is a requirement of PDI.
- FYI- the following are the members of MAGCS that have volunteered to serve on GCSAA committees and task groups. Please feel free to contact them if you have ideas or concerns related to their assignments that they could bring forward to GCSAA.
  - Bob Maibusch, CGCS, MG – Assistant Superintendent Task Group
  - Paul Vermeulen, USGA – Career Development Committee
  - Leonard Berg, CGCS – Election Committee
  - Dan Dinelli, CGCS – Environmental Characteristics of Golf Course Advisory Panel (Chair) & Integrated Plant Management Advisory Panel (Both are sub groups of the Environmental Programs Committee)
  - Tom Fermanian, PhD, Research Review Task Group
  - Erwin Mckone, CGCS – Online Education Task Group
  - Tommy Witt, CGCS – Online Education Task Group
  - Fred Behnke, CGCS – Strategic Communications Committee

- Jon Jennings, CGCS- Strategic Communications Committee
- Luke Cella – Chapter Executives Task Group (Chair) & Chapter Relations Committee
- The Scholarship Committee is going to utilize the Monthly Meeting on August 21 (McHenry CC) as a fundraiser in an effort to double the scholarships gifted in 2007. Individuals, Clubs and Companies will be encouraged to help achieve this worthy goal through tee sponsors. Look for information, or contact Tim Anderson, CGCS.




## Don’t miss the next issue of *On Course*

- Intraeeding Issues Answered
- Protecting Your Toolbox
- A recap of the year's first Monthly Meeting in *Bullsheet*

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