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Ivanhoe's Marsh number seven.
(photo credit: Justin VanLanduit)

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Luke Cella

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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ON COURSE WITH THE PRESIDENT

Gary Hearn Salt Creek Golf Club

Leaves Are Changing Color

Where did the season go? Fall is here and winter is just around the corner. My presidency is coming to an end, and I am gasping for air. This has been a very busy year for me, what with being President, course issues at Salt Creek, and outside distractions from friends and family. It's still a great pleasure being President of the best chapter in GCSAA.

*The satisfaction
of working with
your peers and
colleagues is
rewarding and
priceless.*

I love Fall, the best of all seasons. I enjoy playing golf this time of the year. I tend to admire the landscaping more. It's less crowded on the course. I get a chance to relax and absorb the cool fresh air, but most of all – I enjoy doing projects. There is time for reflection, for growth (course value and improvements), for personal (gratification and desire) and family (understanding and unselfishness) issues. These are values that can be lost due to distractions, self doubt, and being misguided. This is the time to find those values again.

Our annual event is almost upon us. Tony Kalina has a great line-up for the 54th Midwest Turf Clinic being held at Medinah Country Club, on November 1st. There's a Roundtable with Course Architects, a speaker from R.I.S.E. (dealing with pesticides), speakers from USGA for the afternoon session, and an 'Improv' skit dealing with golf. Please, Paul Voykin, put your phone on VIBRATE in case Dudley calls you from that heavenly golf course. Again I want to emphasize involvement (Sept. issue). Get involved with committees, or run for a position on the Board. The satisfaction of working with your peers and colleagues is rewarding and priceless. Also in November, we have the Fall Dinner Dance at Ruth Lake Country Club. I want to thank Dan Marco for hosting this event. Bring your spouse or significant other, let your hair down, and dance the night away.

Reflecting back on the PGA Tournament at Medinah in August, I want to thank Tom Lively and his crew for allowing me to work during tournament week. I hope I wasn't a burden, especially to all the volunteers who worked the grounds. It was a pleasure to interact with the touring Professionals (during the practice rounds and on the driving range), to meet Rees Jones – course architect for Medinah C.C., to watch Paul Vermuelen check turf conditions and ask PGA Officials about course set up, to see Superintendent volunteers doing stimpmeter readings, vendors supplying great food, and all the other volunteers. The greatest enjoyment came from working with college students, interns, assistants and employees from other courses, and Tom Lively's staff. What a connection can come from being with a large group of people working to provide a venue that both the Professionals and the Fans can enjoy, whether in person or from their television sets. I gained a better understanding from this group of what the future is in the turf industry. I would like to wish you all good luck in your future endeavors, thank you for the memories, and thank you for letting me be a part of your life for a fraction of a moment.





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On to the Pasture of Past Presidency

This being my last article as an MAGCS board member, I would like to recap my involvement with the board and offer a few parting thoughts on why involvement with the MAGCS is time well spent.

Don Spier, who was a sales rep for Wally Fuchs of Turf Products, invited me to an MAGCS monthly meeting in 1988. Don was very gracious with his time. He mentored my transition into being a superintendent in the greater Chicago land area. The atmosphere at the meeting was warm and fun-filled. I soon joined the MAGCS.

Several years later I was asked to help out with registration and to become a golf committee member. I have always enjoyed our monthly meetings, both for the hospitality from and the variety in the host clubs. In my earlier years, light competition was also a drawing card, not just the education. Now I look forward to the camaraderie and education more than the competition—I guess that's due to age.

Next, one of the past presidents, I forget just which one, asked me to run for the MAGCS board of directors. After two losses, my name came first on the ballot the next time. That third time was the charm, and I was elected to the board. The decision to run for the board was not made lightly. I'm of course juggling time commitments with "giving back to my association." As it turns out, time spent with the MAGCS is beneficial, with positives outweighing the negatives ten-fold.

There are so many positives in serving the MAGCS; that the payback for time spent is worth every minute. Many of the board members were new acquaintances. Those friendships never would have happened without my serving on the board. These relationships will give back forever. The topics and ideas discussed in committee and board meetings are learning experiences in themselves. The various ideologies and methods employed by different board members were eye-opening as well. These experiences have helped me to develop as a professional. Once again, I cannot put a price tag on being involved with the MAGCS. What is learned by serving the MAGCS can not be learned in a classroom or in a seminar.

We have accomplished much over the last seven years—the length of my board service. Several major accomplishments come to mind. Hiring Luke Cella as director has proven to enhance all that we do and to do it at a lower cost. Now that we know Luke, the MAGCS knows that it is lucky to have his organization and his many talents. And I know that Luke appreciates the opportunity to put his many talents to work. What a great win-win. Another huge move forward is the establishment of the Assistant Superintendents' committee and their position on the MAGCS board of directors. This group is very involved with the MAGCS and their profession. The development of standard operating procedures and exit forms has enhanced the transition from one committee chair to another. Being headquartered at the golf house gives us an identity. It also facilitates management of our association and our member resources. Finally, one almost takes for granted the continued improvement of *On Course*, monthly meetings, and the hospitality suite at the national conference.

(continued on page 27)

The topics and ideas discussed in committee and board meetings are learning experiences in themselves.



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Midwest Breezes



Big Foot Country Club, Jim Knulty

Built into the hills above Lake Geneva, in the village of Fontana “land of many springs,” Big Foot Country Club is one of those rare golf clubs where extraordinary natural beauty and exceptional golf course design are combined.

Several artesian springs on the property form small pools and brooks that meander through the course. Where the brooks cross the lines of play, Jim Knulty has contracted with Leafblad Landscaping to build footbridges. The use of a fieldstone veneer gives the bridges a natural look.

Jim has cleared many of the steep hillsides of trees and buckthorn, and replanted them with perennial flowers and native grasses. Stairwells are built into these slopes using ledge-rock stone. These hillsides now provide a colorful backdrop for several holes, as well as some spectacular vistas.

(continued on page 8)



On the third hole, by moving the tee into the side of a hill, Jim reconfigured a short, straightaway, par four into a hard, dogleg left. This was a significant engineering feat involving a large amount of clearing, building a tee into the hillside, and constructing asphalt paths and stone stairways up a steep grade.

The fairways at Big Foot are predominately bentgrass. When Jim started at Big Foot 27 years ago, they were cut over an inch, and predominantly bluegrass. But as Jim began to bring the cut down, and use fertility and watering practices appropriate for bentgrass, the bent came in mostly on its own. In several sections of fairway

Jim enhanced the conversion by mowing the turf down to stubble. He then aerified and slit seeded into the scalped turf. For Jim this worked as effectively as the conventional "Round-up Conversion" program.

Over the years Jim has rebuilt nearly every tee and bunker, making the entire course play superbly. Due to the efforts of Jim Knulty, Big Foot Country Club is as challenging and stimulating to play as it is breathtaking to behold.

Brad Anderson, CGCS



One of the many meandering brooks at Big Foot CC that give the course natural beauty.



A pool created by one of the natural springs found on the property of Big Foot CC.



A veneered fieldstone bridge at Big Foot fits well into the landscape.



A view from atop a hillside that was previously buckthorn, but now planted to native flowers and grasses at Big Foot CC.



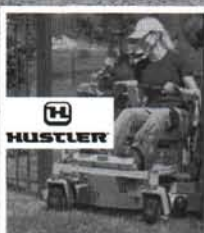
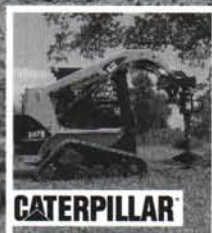
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