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A heavy dew covers a tee during the fall that finally ended.
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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Balance Continued

How bout that last act Ladies and Gentlemen, Mr. Tim Anderson our outgoing President. Let's give him a round of applause! I have followed Tim all the way through the ranks of the MAGCS Board of Directors and let me tell you, he is not an easy act to follow. I would like to congratulate Jim Keith and Bob Kohlstedt, our newest Board members. Welcome gentlemen! I would also like to congratulate Dan Sterr to his reelection. An interesting historical fact has been brought to my attention by some colleagues and that is that I am the first MAGCS President that actually resides and employed outside of the state of Illinois. That being said, members of the Board fill YOUR gas tanks and securely fasten YOUR I-PASS's to the windshields. I've been doing it for five years; you can do it for one. You had your chance to make a nomination from the floor for a different President and you blew it.

I would now like to pick up where the Turf Clinic left off. A definition of Balance is defined as "a state in which various parts form a satisfying and harmonious whole and nothing is out of proportion or unduly emphasized at the expense of the rest." How many of you honestly have this in your life right now? I know I don't and the Turf Clinic was some food for thought on my 2 hour ride home. What conclusions did I come to?

Work = unbalanced: I need to delegate by means of becoming a better teacher. I often find myself taking on tasks that could easily have been done by another staff member if I had just taken the time to teach them. I could imagine that by not giving them that task that I instilled them with a sense of distrust. On the other end of the spectrum I have now deprived myself of time to accomplish tasks such as coding invoices, meeting with vendors, setting up irrigation, etc.

Family = mostly balanced: I do more than my fair share of cooking, cleaning, grocery shopping, and spending a well above average amount of time with my son. There are those times though that I get the tug on the shoulder followed by the phrase "daddy read book" (mind you he is only 2½ years old) and I toss the book aside and say "daddy's watching TV now!" What a jerk I am telling my son I'm busy doing something unimportant. The TV will be there forever but will I? I have made a vow to myself to spend more time reading him books, going to the park, taking him on wagon rides and to set my selfishness aside.

Personal = semi balanced: I have a tendency to start things and not complete them in the timely manner in which I intended to (Luke can vow to this as my Presidents message is already late). This is usually caused by poor planning, getting side tracked, losing interest, or becoming frustrated at the task at hand. I need to do the obvious here and that is to improve my time management skills and planning.

Professional affiliation (MAGCS) = mostly balanced: The MAGCS Board of Directors has analyzed it's committees and functions and one of it's decisions we came up with this year is to "Balance" our monthly publication *On Course*. For starters you will no longer see a monthly Presidents message as it will be included on a quarterly basis only. Whew! The second task that we are going to accomplish is by strategically placing Directors columns as they pertain to upcoming events or summaries of an event. The reasoning behind these two changes is that we felt we were falling into a mode of repetition and intern making the magazine unbalanced. We hope you find these changes more appealing and balanced to read.

The conclusion I came up with that makes "Balance" in our lives contains three main components: Time management, goals, and being a team player. I hope many of you walked away from the Turf Clinic analyzing your "Balance" in life as I did and that you will make the necessary changes to make it happen. **-OC**



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FEATURE ARTICLE

Harry Lovero, Orchard Valley Golf Course

I Recently Joined N.A.G.A.



NAGA stands for the National Amputee Golf Association. For a brief week at the end of August, right after the heavy rains, we, at Orchard Valley, were honored to have had NAGA play their international tournament at our course. They came from as far away as China, Japan, Australia, Ireland, and as near as Canada and, of course, our own US of A. These incredible players are also known as Amputees. There were amputees with no legs, with two legs (prostheses), with one arm, with one arm and one leg, and with one leg. Solo Riders, Segway Riders, and Wheel Chairs are also included. There was one player from Tennessee – his name was Bob — and he had stumps. He was in a wheel chair. He had a short set of clubs that he made for himself. He would get out of his chair, take his shot, and then get back in the chair and move on. On the green he used a rod with a sleeve welded on the front of his chair, so that he could anchor himself while putting.

Yes, the Solo Riders did go onto the greens and tees and everywhere. I was asked the question, "doesn't it make you crazy to have them riding on your greens and tees like that?" At first it did, but after I saw how careful they were with positioning and everything else, I got past it. After a while you see beyond the disabilities, and you see only players.

These incredible players can strike a golf ball and score better than you or I, who have all of our extremities! For all of us, the week was a breath of fresh air. These players are genuine. They were so thankful that we would "put up with them for a week," as they put it. We were delighted to have put up with them, and we would gladly do it again and again. Their course etiquette is second to none. Their course management is far better than our own regular players. They were an inspiration to me, my crew, and everyone who came in contact with them here at Orchard Valley.



The players included women and teenagers. There was an 11-year-old who was born with no legs. He had two prosthetics. This was his first tournament, and he shot an even 100 the first day. There was a fourteen-year-old young man who was the talk of the tournament for his amazing courage. The players shot in the 70s, 80s, 90s, and 100s. Some have scratch handicaps. I was watching a player named Mac O'Grady from Ireland. He was playing in the one arm flight, which is only one arm and no prosthetic. He was on number ten, a par four, in the right rough below a pot bunker about 120 yards away. He stuck the shot ten feet in front of the pin swinging with one arm out of the rough. The rough was about five inches thick after all the rain.

We even had some news coverage! Howard Sudbury from Channel 2 news was there. Jeff Blanzky from ABC7 news was there. NBC5 also sent a crew out. It was good to see these folks get their due.

(continued on page 7)

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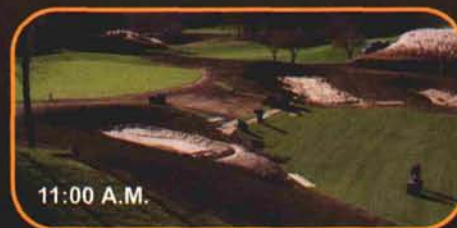
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Yeah, they take a while to play, but they love to play the game of golf, and they deserve to play golf. Many of them lost limbs in war, others in accidents at work, or in automobile accidents. I could go on and on about how inspirational these folks are, but you really need to meet and speak to them. Their example can have a tremendous positive impact on the life of an amputee who is not participating in life or socializing. So on those days when you feel that nothing is going your way, you are down in the dumper, and you think you have real problems, just think about these folks. If you ever get the chance to see them play....do it!!

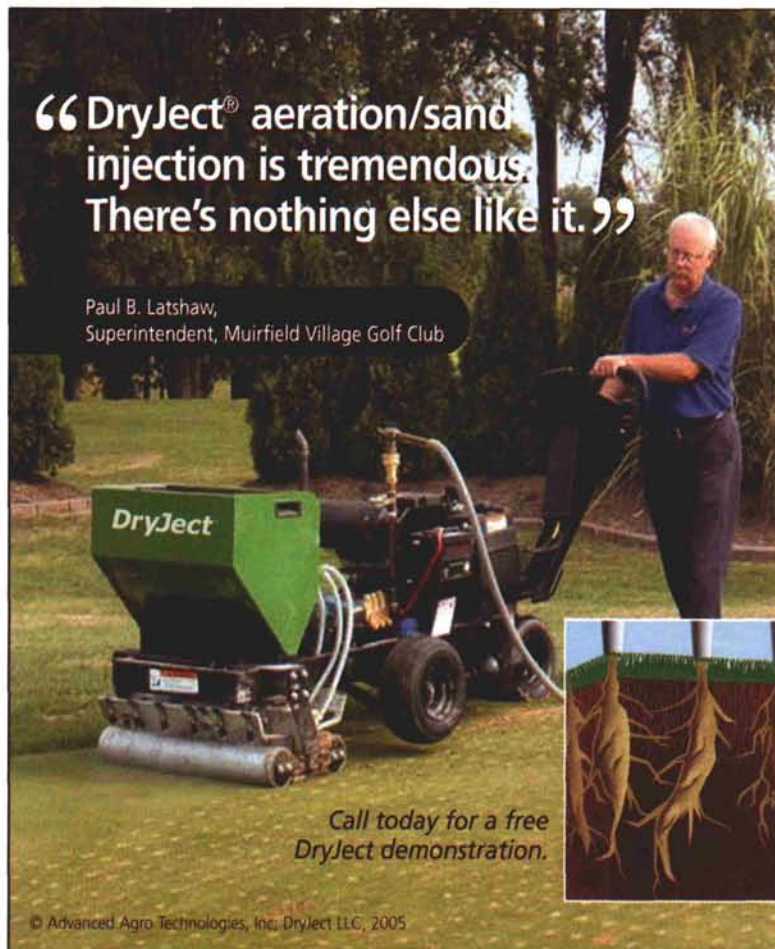
I would like to thank Mr. Dennis Ithal the Tournament Chairman, Mr. Robert C. Wilson the Executive Director of NAGA, and Mr. Dan Cox the Midwestern Trustee for their help, their gratitude, and their praise of Orchard Valley. **-OC**

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MIDWEST BREEZES

Scott Vincent, *Skokie Country Club*



Skokie Country Club, Don Cross

Don Cross and his staff have developed a unique method for bunker edging, which they call Rip Edging, using wide tooth pitch-forks to actually rip the overgrown perimeter fescue turf away from the original soil edge.

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- Good opportunity to check sand depths and make adjustments while bunker is already Ground Under Repair (GUR). **-OC**



A Skokie CC staff member uses the pitch fork to feel the sand soil interface of the bunker.



A green side bunker at Skokie Country Club on the left before "Rip Edging", a process that keeps the bunkers in renovated shape as seen on the right.

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