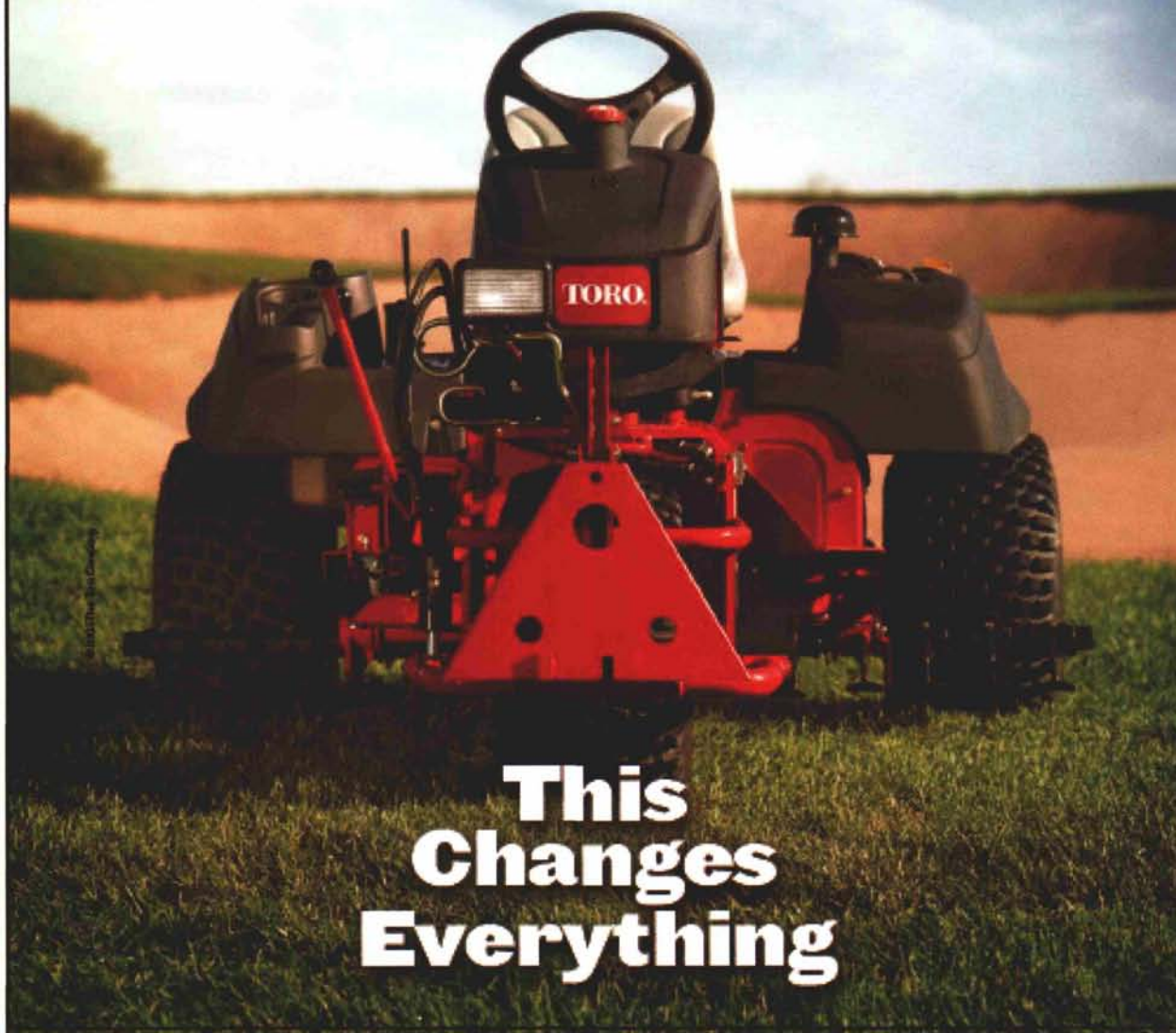


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The par 3 number 8 "Shepherd's Hollow" at Shepherd's Crook was cut into an existing stand of Oaks.  
Photo Credit: Luke Cella.

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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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## ON COURSE WITH THE PRESIDENT

Tim Anderson, CGCS Naperville Country Club

# Like a Runaway Freight Train

*Sometimes life comes at you fast. My wife and I have two children, Rachel (age 14) and Hannah (age 12). Last month Rachel graduated from 8th grade. This wasn't a total surprise as Rachel is a good student who has advanced year to year without incident. We have been looking forward to her graduation ceremony for sometime. The past school year has been filled with all the typical 8th grade activities: high school open house visits, student shadow days, 8th grade retreat, the class trip, a swim party, high school entrance exams, and the 8th grade awards ceremony. The last event prior to graduation was the parent / student dinner dance. It was a wonderful evening teeming with proud parents and happy students outfitted in suits and formal dresses. The evening included the screening of a video that highlighted all the children's grade school experience. The movie started with a clip of the kids entering the school for their first day of kindergarten and ended with the 8th grade graduating class of 2007 leaving the school building for the last time just prior to graduation.*

*The next time  
that Rachel and I  
take time to  
share a dance  
may be at  
her wedding.*

The movie was a video montage off all the students and their scholastic, athletic, and social activities for the prior 8 years. I watched, and in 30 short minutes, my eldest daughter grew from a small child into a mature, confident, independent young woman who was ready to embark upon the next phase of her life and embrace the challenges of high school. After the movie was over the DJ opened up the dance floor with a parent/student dance. As Rachel and I shared a dance, I thought back to the last time that we had danced together. It had been years earlier, Rachel was a small child at the time. I remember her standing on the top of my shoes as we moved around the dance floor. Then my mind raced forward. It occurred to me, 10 years from now both Rachel and Hannah will have graduated from high school and college (hopefully). They may be living on their own by that time. They could be married. The next time that Rachel and I take time to share a dance may be at her wedding. That's when I realized that life had not come at me fast. It had screamed past me like a runaway freight train. How could it be that the infant that I use to carry on my shoulders was ready to start high school?

I consider myself fortunate to have a wonderful (and very understanding) wife as well as two beautiful daughters. Like any parent I take pride in the accomplishments of my children and look forward to sharing their future achievements. I wanted to share this experience to illustrate a point. Spring of 2007 is behind us. The summer of 2007 is upon us along with all of its unknown challenges. Summer is a demanding time for individuals that work in the golf industry. It is very difficult to balance the demands of work and family. Even during the stress of the summer months it is important to make our families a priority and to maintain a good balance between work and family. If family time is limited due to work constraints, then turn the time that you do have into quality family memories.

Best wishes on the summer ahead!  
Tim







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# Commitment

*First of all let me begin by thanking the Board of Directors, President emeritus Gary Hearn, and Phil Zeinert for their support and confidence in considering me for director of the Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents. It is indeed an honor, and I am humbled to be in this position.*

As the title states, my column is about commitment. I know that we speak about this subject year in and year out, but let us explore some of the widely used excuses for not committing to serve on a committee or the board.

Here is my Top Ten list of reasons why I cannot serve:

10. I can't leave my drinking buddies alone that long.
9. It's just a job for me.
8. I can't leave my family alone for that long.
7. And I don't see them as it is during the season.
6. My wife will surely divorce me.
5. I attend enough meetings during the season.
4. My club won't allow me to.
3. I have enough to do during the season.
2. I have too many home projects.

And the number one reason why I cannot serve on a committee or the board is:

1. I don't have the time!!!!

None of us has the time, but we do it anyway, and we hope that our families will continue to understand and support us. Serving and making a difference in people's lives is something that makes you feel good inside. We are 800 members strong, but you would not know that if you looked at how many are involved within the association. Remember we are here to serve you the members, get involved, and make a difference. If you don't like the direction we're taking or are a constant whiner about things that you do not like; join up; together we can make a difference. I turned 50 this past January and have started my 32nd year in our industry. It took me that long to get involved in our association. Don't you wait that long. My door is always open, my e-mail and cell phone are listed in the membership directory. Feel free to use them whenever there is something that you need to talk about. We, as your board, are here to serve you. And to those of you who have made the commitment to serve, thank you! And to those of you who are contemplating the move, do it! You'll be glad that you did.

As a side note, I am the Editorial Committee Chairman as many of you know. Please try to commit (there's that word again) to an article for your magazine, On Course. We also take pictures. It doesn't have to be a technical article. It can be of personal interest, or a human interest story, or just something that you would like to share with your fellow members. A lot of you say that you cannot write. You would be surprised at what you

*(continued on page 6)*

*I turned 50  
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It took me  
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Don't you wait  
that long.*

can do. If you have an idea for an article, put some thoughts down on paper and forward it to Luke Cella or me. We would be glad to look at it and get back to you with any help that we can provide. You won't know until you try it!

In closing, I look forward to serving my board and my members this season and, I hope, for many seasons to come. Thank you, and continued success for the rest of the season.



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# Craig Lewis -N-



Craig Lewis with daughters Kati and Jenny and grandson Lucas in forefront.



## SHEPHERD'S CROOK

*Craig Lewis has taken a non-traditional route to becoming a Golf Course Superintendent, yet it has led him to where he is today, Shepherd's Crook Golf Club in Zion, Illinois, literally across the street from Wisconsin. Craig got his first job on a golf course by riding his bike to nearby Foss Park every day for three weeks until the superintendent finally gave him a job. He installed drainage all summer by himself. After that it was a few stops in the corporate world and an Assistant position at Midlane Country Club that paved the way for his current position.*



The 18th, "Devils Ditch" at Shepherd's Crook ends on the double false-fronted green.

Shepherd's Crook, sitting on 140 acres of former farmland (not landfill) is a great little treasure where Craig has applied his personal touch since the grow-in phase when he started as Superintendent in 1998. Architect Keith Foster, Wadsworth Construction, and Craig built 18 holes that quickly resembled classic designs with grass-faced bunkers and non-maintained fescue roughs. In fact, in order for the shapers on the construction crew to get a feel for just what he wanted, architect Keith Foster took his crew to nearby Shoreacres to get a look at the bunkers that Seth Raynor had built over 80 years before. The amazing part of all this is that it was done by moving only 100,000 square yards of soil.

Since then it has been Craig and his crew of seven (even his mechanic was mowing greens the day I visited) taking care of the course. With a limited crew and the high standards that he has set, it is attention to detail that

*(continued on page 8)*



has resulted in a course that is currently ranked in the top 100 courses in America for women. This is made possible by the placement of forward tees that allow women to hit an 8 or 9-iron into a green just like the men do. If you think that makes for an easy golf course though forget it. Between the large rolling greens and the 650 yard par 5 (longest in the state and probably the farthest north) this course can grow some teeth and bite you quick.

If you get a chance to speak with Craig you quickly recognize a person who takes great pride in his course and isn't afraid of a bit of work in order to make the course special. One indicator of this is the fact that there is zero percent Poa annua on the greens, because he mechanically removes it. It is also expressed in the bridge made out of Red Oak. The trees were cleared during construction; Craig then had the wood cut into boards for planks; the trunks of the trees serve as the supports.

If all of this isn't enough to keep a man busy, Craig spends all of his "free time" with his two daughters and one grandson (another is on the way), fishing in his back yard, and working weekends at the local cancer hospital driving patients between the hospital, hotels, and the airport.

So come June everyone should take the time to make it north to Shepherd's Crook and enjoy all the hard work that Craig and his crew have put in to make the day fun.



*Our always affable host, Craig Lewis, Superintendent of Shepherd's Crook.*

*Below: A vantage point atop the fescue roughs provide an outlook over the ninth and eighteenth greens at Shepherd's Crook.*





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