

where Ray held the distinction of being the “trouble-shooter.” It was back to the golf course in 1928-1929 when Ray assisted in the construction and grow-in of Medinah Country Club’s #3 course. He remained at Medinah as foreman of the #2 course through 1930. The Great Depression years found Ray without a job. He kept busy by towing a trailer, fashioned from the flatbed of a Ford Model A truck and with a reel-grinding machine attached, to area courses to sharpen their mowers. In 1934, Ray was hired on at Sunset Ridge Country Club as foreman. He landed his first and only greenkeeper’s job at Glen Oak Country Club on March 25, 1936, where he remained for 34 years until his retirement. During his amazing tenure at Glen Oak, Ray was very active in local and national golf industry activities, including having an instrumental role in the formation of both the Midwest Turfgrass Foundation at Purdue University and the Illinois Turfgrass Foundation at the University of Illinois. During and after WWII, Ray helped establish golf courses at five veteran’s hospitals in the Midwest. Ray served as president of MAGCS in 1943, 1944, and 1959, and was GCSAA’s president in 1950. His son Donald, a long-time superintendent at Chicago Golf Club, served

“...in 1995 the membership voted by a slight margin to change the name to reflect a more professional image for MAGCS.”

as MAGCS president in 1962, and his assistant Fred Opperman, who took over at Glen Oak when Ray retired, also served as our president in 1976. In 1975, Ray was honored by GCSAA with the Distinguished Service Award.

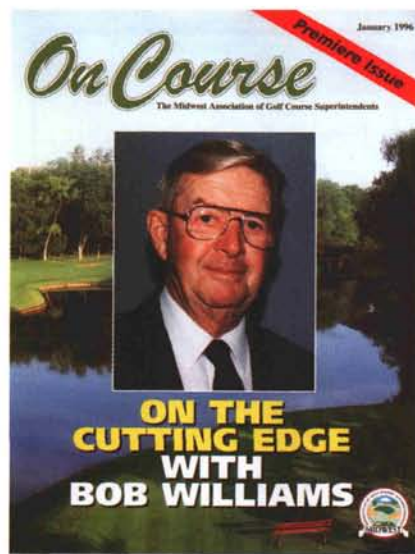
Ray’s and Fred’s friendship and working relationship continued on long after Ray’s retirement. When Ray passed away in July of 1983, Fred was the natural choice to become the publication’s 11th editor, following Ray and those who had preceded him—**Norm Johnson, Don Strand, Bill Stuppel, Bert Rost, Ted Woehrli, Doug Jabaay, Tom Burrows, Dick Trevarthan, and Roger LaRochelle.** Under Fred Opperman’s watch, the magazine retained its look, although its size and circulation increased yearly. In 1991, a MAGCS survey asked members if they felt a name change for their newsletter was needed, and this was voted down in favor of tradition. However, in 1995 the membership voted by a slight margin to change the name to reflect a more professional image for MAGCS. This was a hotly debated issue that caused many sleepless nights for President **Joel Purpur** and his Board. Forms were sent out to the membership requesting suggestions for the new name. Over 200 entries were submitted. From those, five finalists were chosen by the editorial committee under chairman **Dave Blomquist**’s watch: “Windy City Turf,” “Midwest Breezes,” “On the Green,” “Modern Links,” and “On Course.” The chosen name, *On Course*, was submitted by none other than Bob Williams, the same man who coined the original Bull Sheet.

The new name provided the impetus to establish a whole new magazine-type look which would not only include color photography throughout and a bold cover, but retain some of the traditions from its early days, including the “Bull Sheet” and “Midwest Breezes” sections. This was possible only through the contracting of a new printing company with the technology to produce what was required. Darwill Press was the chosen firm and has been producing *On Course* ever since. It was also during this time of change when the MAGCS Board of Directors and Fred

Opperman had the keen foresight to hire graphic artist Mark Karczewski to consult on the transition and provide expertise in the production of *On Course*, which he still handles to this day. Thus the new era began with the January, 1996 issue featuring Bob Williams on its cover



Mark Karczewski



In July of 1999, Fred Opperman decided it was time to retire and move up to Big Sky country in Bozeman, Montana. A search for the 12th editor of our magazine brought **Cathy Miles Ralston** to MAGCS and to *On Course*—a perfectly natural fit for the daughter of **Tim Miles** and niece of **Oscar Miles**, both superintendents and MAGCS members. It was at this time that the contributing editor’s position was established, and yours truly was chosen—a mistake that will haunt MAGCS for many years.

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John Gurke, Fred Opperman and
Cathy Miles Ralston

Cathy oversaw the format change of March, 2000 which brought a new, fresh look to the cover and throughout and remained editor of *On Course* until February of 2006. Throughout Cathy's tenure, *On Course* continually improved in quality and stature, going to a full color format and garnering back-to-back GCSAA Chapter Publication Awards for best in its class in 2005 and 2006. Executive Director **Luke Cella** took the reins in early 2006, bringing the production of *On Course* under the roof of Midwest Golf House, where MAGCS resides. The future of *On Course* looks bright in Luke's hands as he continues what his predecessors began — to produce a monthly magazine of the highest possible quality that serves the MAGCS membership by including member-contributed articles and information.

That mission is the very reason that the **Ray Gerber Editorial Award** and, subsequently, the **Fred D. Opperman Editorial Award** were conceived — to recognize superintendents and non-superintendents alike for their contributions to *On Course*. The Ray Gerber award was first presented in 1983. It is bestowed annually upon the superintendent whose original article is judged superior by a predetermined panel of five judges based on several published criteria. The Fred D. Opperman award, established in 2002, is based on the same principles as the Gerber, but it recognizes the non-superintendent whose article is deemed best. In order for

either award to be presented, a minimum of six articles must qualify in a given year, which, sadly, is why there have been several years without a Gerber award presentation at the Midwest Turf Clinic.



Dan Dinellie wins
the Gerber Award in 1995.



Dave Blomquist wins
the Gerber Award in 1990.



Jim Evans captures the
Gerber Award in 1988.



Dave Behrman presents
Randy Wahler the Gerber in 1985.



Dave Ward wins in 1985.



Joel Purpur pulls down
the Gerber Award when color
photography was coming into
vogue as hair was going out of style
in 1993 for most of our past winners.

The glorious history of our association and of the characters that made it tick throughout its 81 years of existence will continue to be the fuel that propels its monthly publication into the future. We look forward to that future and hope that *On Course* magazine can continue to be the leader that it is. With the contributions of its readers—the members of the Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents—that future looks extremely bright.





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Brad Anderson, CGCS Midlane Country Club

January Monthly Meeting

Rich Harvest Farms

Mr. Todd Gray, Senior Vice President of Wells Fargo Financial Leasing Inc. spoke to us at Rich Harvest Links about cash flow solutions for asset management.

The money allocated for replacing aged equipment has traditionally come from capital funds. But due to changes in the economy, the capital at your club may no longer be a reliable source for sustainable asset management - if in fact it ever was.

The doling out of capital funds has never been a precise or impartial process. And subsequently our highest percentage of repairs cost go towards equipment that has outlived a useful life; our labor is diverted from service opportunities towards inefficiency, down time, and staff burnout; even our newest equipment absorbs double duty.

If capital funding has not allowed you to manage your entire fleet with a business plan that utilizes every piece of equipment as inexpensively as possible over its useful life, then you should spend some time studying all of the various options that are out there using the cash flow model.



Todd Gray

Ed Note: Mr. Gray will present these options again at the Golf Summit on April 19, 2007 at Olympia Fields Country Club.

January Seminar

Midwest Golf House

Dr. Fred Yelverton, Professor and Extension Specialist at North Carolina State University presented his seminar on Advanced Weed Control for the members of MAGCS. Though the topic did not seem glamorous to most, the content of Dr. Yelverton's presentation was full of new information and created a wealth of new weed control strategies for all in attendance.

Many new chemical formulations, active ingredients and new uses for older products were dissected, simplified and explained. There was great participation from the audience on topics of moss and other hard to control weeds such as nimblewill, violets, clover and grasses.

We don't spray the herbicides all the time, so our knowledge of them is not as in tune as it is with fungicides. There are many new products available and you would be remiss to keep using the same old active ingredients without taking a look at newer chemistries. After listening to Dr. Yelverton for the day, all should



Fred Yelverton

place a herbicide seminar in your rotation every three to four years.

The slide presentations for the seminar can be found at: <http://www.turf-files.ncsu.edu/Extension/Presentations/Default.aspx> (Luke Cella)



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