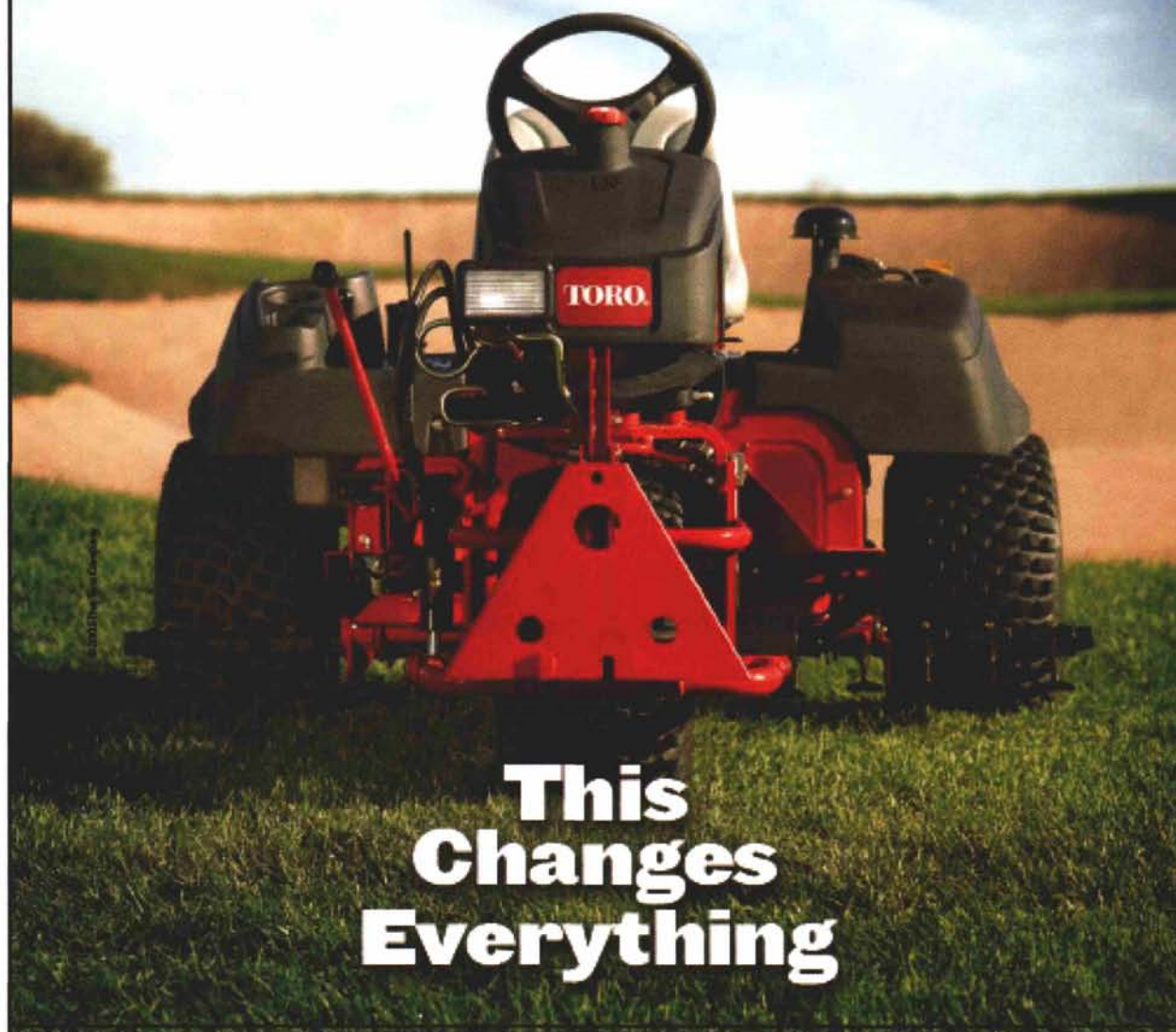


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SEPTEMBER 2007 Volume 61 No. 4



MAGCS RETURNS TO A STONEWALL ORCHARD FOR THE CHAMPIOINSHIP IN SEPTEMBER.

FRONT COVER

The fourth hole at Stonewall Orchard. Not long, at 341 yards from the tips, it boasts a higher scoring average than par in many events.
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



Change of Season

According to www.infoplease.com, on Sunday, September 23rd, 2007 at 5:51 am EDT the autumnal equinox occurs as the sun crosses the celestial equator, from north to south, marking the beginning of autumn in the Northern Hemisphere. The change of the seasons is something that I have always enjoyed about living in the mid-west. The fall equinox also marks a period of change on the golf course. Championship tournaments have been completed. Those who were victorious have had their names added to the Champions list, and golf course superintendents shift gears as fall construction projects ramp up. Aerification and over seeding move to the fore front as courses work to restore conditions following the severe flooding and heat that we experienced during the month of August. Hopefully everyone was able to endure August with minimal damage.

Fall also marks a period of change for the MAGCS as our focus turns toward 2008. Plans are underway for the Annual Midwest Turf Clinic scheduled for November 7th at Medinah Country Club, Tom Lively, CGCS host. The slate of candidates is finalized for the MAGCS' annual meeting and election.

This year there are 3 board positions to be filled for the coming year. At the national level, the GCSAA Chapter Delegates Meeting is scheduled for October 12th thru the 14th. The chapter delegate meeting brings together representatives from GCSAA affiliated chapters. Delegates are responsible for carrying forward those opinions of the members within their chapter as they relate to GCSAA initiatives, issues that affect our profession, and issues that affect the membership of the GCSAA. Don Ferreri, Seven Bridges Golf Course, has agreed to serve as the MAGCS chapter delegate. I would like to thank Don for his continued service to the MAGCS in this capacity. This year the agenda for the chapter delegates meeting focuses on chapter effectiveness. Specifically, the GCSAA has asked that all chapter delegates be prepared to participate in discussion groups centered on the following six questions

1. Does the GCSAA need chapters to successfully serve members?
2. Do the Chapters need GCSAA to successfully serve members?
3. Should the GCSAA work in unison or collaboration with the chapters to serve members?
4. Would professional management help chapters successfully serve members?
5. Should all chapters and the GCSAA share the same mission, vision, and goals?
6. Would your chapter be willing to enhance the partnership with GCSAA to more effectively serve members?

All members are encouraged to take an active role in the association and voice your thought on these topics. Your feedback is important! Feel free to contact any board member and/or the chapter delegate to express your opinion. Use what ever avenue of communication is easiest: casual conversation, fax, text message, phone call, e-mail, web site posting... Your input will make for a more productive meeting. Other topics on the agenda for the Chapter Delegates Meeting include:

- The New Delegate Orientation
- What GCSAA is Doing for You
- The GCSAA Branding Campaign
- Chapter Effectiveness
- GCSAA Dues Discussion
- GCSAA Committee Selection Process
- GCSAA Association Briefing and Indicators for Success
- Presentation of the GCSAA Candidates
- Learning From our Members (what else do we need to know)
- State Economic Impact Studies
- Topics From the Delegates

It sounds like a packed 3 days. In November, at the annual meeting, Don will report back to the membership on the outcomes of the chapter delegates meeting.

As mentioned earlier, fall is a period of change. It is so palpable that you can feel it in the air around you. I hope that along with that change comes the opportunity for all MAGCS members to recover from the stress of the summer months and kick back and enjoy some football!

Tim **-OC**



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Pleasure in the Game

As part of the golf course industry and profession, our livelihood, sense of self-worth, and our passions lie in the pleasures surrounding the game. And, like fingerprints, the pleasures derived from the game of golf are different for everyone.

I am certain that the thrill of competition and the ability to pull off shots in the clutch is how most champion golfers would describe their pleasures of the game. Pleasures can also be experienced and explained by every golfer who has hit a well-executed shot, broken 100, made a birdie, hoisted a championship trophy, won a friendly \$20 Nassau bet, captured a MAGCS logo shirt, carded a hole-in-one, or enjoyed a round of golf laughing with friends and clients over a couple of cold ones. Indeed, golf's pleasures are numerous, individual, and far-reaching.

The greatest pleasure of the game of golf I have experienced is the friendship and camaraderie within our profession that is expressed in volunteerism.

Wikipedia defines 'volunteerism' as, "the willingness of people to work on behalf of others without the expectation of pay or other tangible gain." There is something very gratifying about serving our friends and colleagues during notable golf competitions. It could be a desire to lend a hand, a need to be a small part of something special, or the experience of seeing the organizational, conditioning, and preparation skills of the host superintendents. That willingness to serve and commit to our peers is what makes our profession unique and rewarding. That 'Band of Brothers' mentality that says, "You can count on my time and support; I'll do whatever you ask to help you coordinate and prepare your course for peak conditioning," is what is so special about our profession.

In the Chicagoland area, since 1990, the glory of MAGCS has shown brightly during some of golf's most celebrated amateur and professional competitions. That glory comes from our attitude of service. Whether the tasks were as mundane as raking bunkers or fluffing roughs, or as critical as mowing greens and setting hole locations, the MAGCS responded, as it has since 1926, with unfailing professionalism and devotion to the task at hand.

"You can count on my time and support; I'll do whatever you ask to help you coordinate and prepare your course for peak conditioning,"

I think if you were to ask Ken Lapp, or Oscar Miles, or Jon Jennings, or Dan Quast, or Scott Witte, or Tom Lively, or Dave Ward, or Roger Stewart, or Steven Cook, or Dan Sterr, or Steven Daurer to think back to their notable competition, I am certain each would say that they hold the devotion and commitment of their staff and volunteers in the highest regard, and appreciate their unified support and service.

My wife, Melora, works in a corporate environment where the competition is stepped on, stepped over, or pushed aside in order to advance your own product, and where business gained is good business. At the '99 PGA at Medinah, she saw our association's members volunteering their time and talents without recompense in preparing the course. She was astounded by the dedication displayed by the volunteers — from all walks of life, and from all classes of membership. She said, "This kind of open well-being, here-to-do-whatever-I-can-for-you thing just doesn't happen in the real corporate world." She's right.

Be it known, that working outside the 'real corporate world,' in the MAGCS's golf brethren, is just another pleasure of the game of golf. **-OC**

Larry Flament -N-

Some of you may recall that back in September, 2000, when Stonewall Orchard Golf Club had been open for just a year, Lawrence E. Flament hosted a MAGCS monthly meeting. It has now been seven years, and we get to experience this beautiful course again.



Stonewall Orchard Golf Club is nestled in the western portion of beautiful Lake County. It is Arthur Hills' first course that he designed and built in Illinois. The par 72 course plays to 7,074 yards and has a private, secluded atmosphere that challenges golfers at all levels. Since opening in 1999, it has hosted the 2005 Local U.S. Open Qualifier. For the past three years they have held the Illinois PGA Section Championship there. ESPN also comes out once a year with roughly 300 people and so many prizes that they fill up the driving range!

Long before Larry grew grass at Stonewall Orchard, he began his career in Waukegan, Illinois, as a crew Foreman at Glen Flora Country Club. With Randy Wahler as his guiding light, Larry made the move to Knollwood Club in 1980 to be the Assistant Superintendent. As he moved on, his first Superintendent's position was at Hilldale Golf Club. A short year later, he signed up with Crown Golf as their Project Manager/Site Superintendent for new course constructions. A couple of the courses that Larry worked on were Eagle Brook Country Club and Settler's Hill Golf Course. When May 1998 rolled around Larry joined forces with Arthur Hills and Ryan Central to build Stonewall Orchard Golf Club. Since then he has been the club's first and only Superintendent and has enjoyed every bit of it.



Stonewall Orchard's Golf Course Superintendent, Larry Flament.

Larry manages Stonewall Orchard with the help of 19 staff members. His Assistant Superintendent, Mike VanDeVelde, has been with him for four years, his mechanic, Juan Rojas Duarte, for the past 11 years. Since opening day, Larry and his staff haven't made any big changes to the course. In addition to the typical bunker re-dos, they did add a tee to hole 13 (with Arthur's help of course). Future projects include another tee on hole 16 and re-shaping the brutally challenging green surround on hole 18 (pending Arthur's approval...of course).

Although native to Waukegan, Larry currently lives in Richmond, Illinois, with his fiancé Deanne, daughters Savannah (13), Mary (16), and Ashley (20). Savannah is in high school, Mary is starting to drive, and Ashley attends College of Lake County. Larry also went to College of Lake County, where he got an Associate's degree in Turf. A few years later he attended Loyola University at Mundelein College where he graduated with a B.S. in Business.

A GCSAA and MAGCS member since 1985, Larry is a true professional who takes pride in his work. He loves working at Stonewall Orchard, which is evident from the condition of the course. **-OC**



Above: The 8th, par 5 at Stonewall Orchard is a test off the tee.

The player must tee it up and carry a sea of cattails to a hidden landing area.

Below: A short par 4, the 16th is home to a majestic oak on the left, water on the right and a small sloping green.



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Emerald Ash Borer One Year Later



The Emerald Ash Borer is making its way west (See Map 1). No longer news to the green industry of Illinois the EAB keeps being discovered. It was found in Kane County last June and continues to be discovered in Illinois. As recently as this July, the borer was discovered in LaSalle and DuPage Counties. The La Salle County case was discovered in a cloverleaf interchange at Interstate 80 and Rte. 251. The DuPage find was at Concord Green Shopping Center in Glendale Heights. Kane County leads the pack, though, with 12 confirmed locations, the most recent being an industrial park in northeast Batavia. EAB was also discovered in Wilmette and Evanston last year.

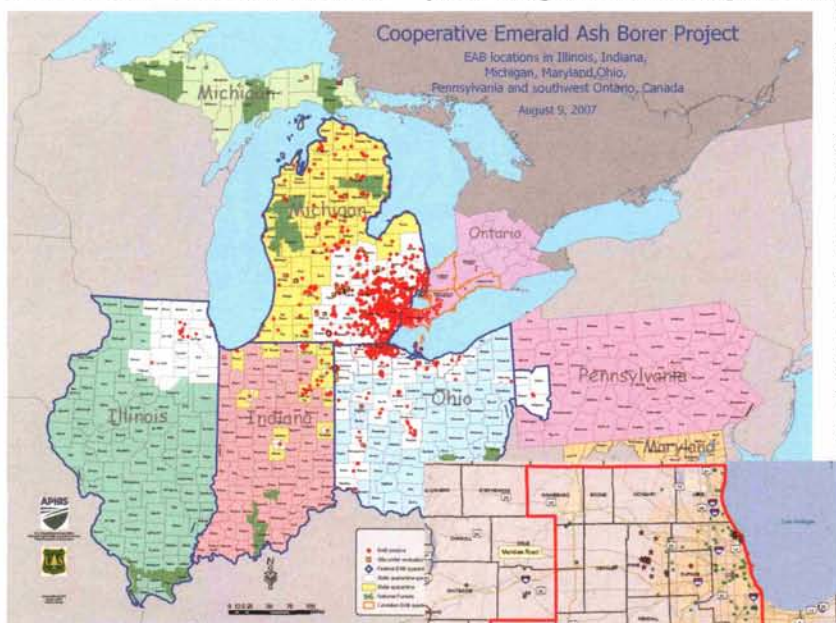
Quarantine

These new discoveries prompted the Illinois Department of Agriculture to expand the quarantine to 18 counties in north-eastern Illinois (See Map 2). What does the quarantine mean to our industry? Since most of the courses that MAGCS members manage fall within the quarantine, not much, unless you move an ash out of the quarantine area or over state lines. The quarantine prohibits the movement of ash firewood out of a regulated area into a non-quarantined area. I know some golf courses, park districts, and villages sell or give away firewood to local homeowners and area residents. As long as both parties are in the quarantine area, no laws have been broken. In fact, the Illinois Department of Agriculture encourages Illinoisans to purchase only locally cut firewood in order to avoid accidental introduction of the beetle into new areas.

No Area Golf Course Infested

To date, there have been no confirmed findings of the emerald ash borer on any golf course in Illinois. The running joke, though, is that a few golf courses could benefit from an infestation, or at least some turf conditions could improve. In truth, we all lose when our native trees get wiped out. Those of us who remember what Dutch elm disease did to the American Elm certainly don't have to fire too many synapses to recognize what our land would be without ash trees. Those of you that remember the American Chestnut understand what it means to lose an estimated four billion trees from one non-native pest (check out acf.org to learn more).

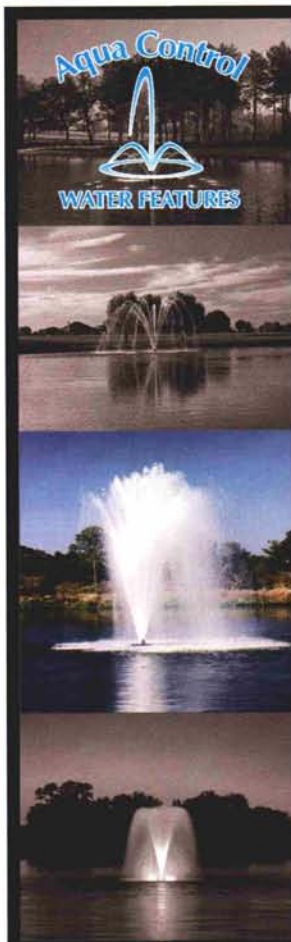
(continued on page 11)



Map 1.
The infestation of EAB spreads west.



Map 2.
The EAB quarantine is expanded in Illinois marked by the solid red line.



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