Controlling leaf wetness is a key to disease control. DewCure is a unique, proprietary product developed specifically to reduce excess leaf moisture caused by dew, guttation, rain, irrigation, and frost. It is formulated to adhere directly to the leaf surface, providing long-lasting moisture inhibition. Call Reinders today to see how DewCure will help keep your course in championship condition.

# Drier Turf Less Disease BETTER CONDITIONS







Solutions & Supplies for the Green Industry

#### **SOFT GOODS SALES**

Bruce Schweiger (608) 206-3500

#### COMMERCIAL EQUIPMENT SALES

Joe Etten (630) 284-8492 • Tim Snell (708) 284-8497 Dave Holler (630) 244-6477 • Steve Stewart (630) 284-8496

#### IRRIGATION SALES AND SERVICE

Darrick Robbins (630) 217-1922 • Jim Burge (847) 220-0038

www.reinders.com

3816 Carnation St., Franklin Park, IL (888) 838-5778

#### 2008 Board of Directors

#### **PRESIDENT**

Dave Braasch, Glen Erin G.C. Phone: 608-856-0240

E-mail: dbraasch@gleneringolf.com

#### **VICE PRESIDENT**

Tony Kalina, Prairie Landing G.C.

Phone: 630-232-1650

E-mail: tkalina@prairielanding.com

#### **SECRETARY / TREASURER**

Scott Witte, Cantigny G.C. Phone: 630-260-8182 E-mail: switte@tribune.com

#### **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Luke Cella

MAGCS, 11855 Archer Ave., Lemont, IL 60439 Phone: 630-243-7900, Fax: 630-257-0362

E-mail: luke@magcs.org

James Keith, CGCS, St. Charles C.C.

Phone: 630-584-3404 E-mail: keithsoup1@aol.com

Robert Kohlstedt, Fox Bend Golf Course

Phone: 630-554-3992 E-mail: bkohlstedt@excite.com

Harry Lovero, Orchard Valley G.C.

Phone: 630-907-8998 E-mail: lsupt1@aol.com

Todd Schmitz, Phillips Park G.C. Phone: 630-898-5296

E-mail: tschmitz@aurora-il.org

Michael Siefken, Sportsman's C.C.

Phone: 847-291-2222 E-mail: msiefken@nbparks.org Dan Sterr, Stonebridge C.C. Phone: 630-898-6139

E-mail: Disterr@aol.com

**PRESIDENT EMERITUS** 

Tim Anderson, Naperville C.C. E-mail: tianderso@aol.com

#### **COMMERCIAL REPRESENTATIVE**

Sharon Riesenbeck, Waupaca Sand & Solutions

E-mail: sharon@waupacasand.com

#### **CLASS 'C' REPRESENTATIVE**

John Ekstrom, Hinsdale Golf Club

Phone: 630-986-1323 E-mail: snapp79@aol.com

#### **TURFGRASS ADVISOR**

Dr. Derek Settle

Chicago District Golf Association

Phone: 630-685-2307

#### **EDITORIAL CHAIRMAN**

Harry Lovero

E-mail: lsupt1@aol.com

#### ASSOCIATE EDITOR

John Gurke

E-mail: Boomding@aol.com

**Chuck Anfield** 

E-mail: chuckanfield@hotmail.com

**GRAPHIC ARTIST** Mark Karczewski

This publication is not copyrighted. We would like to share our articles with any who would like to use them, but please give the author and *On Course* credit.

### Table Of Contents www.magcs.org

#### APRIL 2008 Volume 61 No. 12



The 19th hole at White Eagle is not in the clubhouse at this 27 hole track. Pictured above the 19th hole is a 560 yard par 5 that makes you think about your tactic.

#### FRONT COVER

The clubhouse overlooks the 27th par 5 at White Eagle Golf Club. Photo Credit: Luke Cella

#### **DIRECTORS**

**FEATURES** 

**3** Presidential Update Dave Braasch

4 Gilberto Velazquez -N-White Eagle Golf Club

Joshua Therrien

7 Charles Bartlett – **A Historical Tribute** 

Tim Anderson

**13** A 'Family Doctor' Derek Settle, PhD

**15** Put a Little More Light on the Subject Ted Soenksen

#### DEPARTMENTS

**19** Midwest Breezes

22 the Bull Sheet John Gurke

30 Tribute



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.

Archer Avenue, Lemont, IL, 60439. (630) 243-7900 or visit www.magcs.org for rates and requirements.



### ON COURSE WITH THE PRESIDENT Dave Braasch, Glen Erin Golf Club



## **Presidential Update**

As I change my desktop calendar over from February to March, I happen to notice that spring is less than three weeks away (even the maples have begun to bud out), but the snow and ice covered golf course is making it hard for me to believe. It was nice to get a break from the weather by attending the Golf Industry Show in Orlando back in February and enjoy a few days in the 70s. It was great to see the number of people who were able to attend the MAGCS Hospitality suite at the Renaissance Orlando at Sea World. As many of you know, we tried something different this year by moving the room "off site" rather than being in the headquarters hotel as we have been in years past. The thought process behind this was to try to eliminate the number of "strays" walking into the room and to reduce our costs. Through observation and conversation with MAGCS members this move proved to be successful and without inconvenience. I would like to thank our Sponsors, Sharon Riesenbeck, and her Class E Committee, and Luke Cella for a great evening.

The second round interviews have begun for a CEO for GCSAA to replace Steve Mona. For the interim Cam Oury, GCSAA's chief financial officer and managing director of finance, will assume this position until a replacement is hired. Steve's official last day was Friday, February 29. We wish him well at his new position with the World Golf Foundation.

I would like to remind everyone to visit the MAGCS website to review and post your thoughts and comments on the proposed MAGCS/GCSAA logo. The proposed logo is located in the "Forum" section of the website and, thus far, only two Board Members have voiced their opinion, that's only a .0025% response rate. Need I say more?

The following closely resembles a part of what the state of Wisconsin has already been going through as a part of their newly adopted NR151. This is a proposal by the Illinois 95th General Assembly. It:

Creates the Phosphorous Turf Fertilizer Use Restriction Act. Provides that, beginning July 1, 2009, a person may not apply a fertilizer containing the plant nutrient phosphorus to turf in this State. Provides that the restriction does not apply when (i) a tissue, soil, or other test by a laboratory or method approved by the Agency and performed within the immediately preceding 3 years indicates that the level of available phosphorus in the soil is insufficient to support healthy turf growth or (ii) the property owner or an agent of the property owner is first establishing turf via seed or sod procedures, but only during the first growing season. Sets a maximum fine for violation of the restriction. Provides that

the University of Illinois Extension Service, in cooperation with the Environmental Protection Agency, shall study and evaluate phosphorus needs of turf throughout the State and develop the standard for the minimum amount of available phosphorus needed to support healthy turf growth. Requires the Environmental Protection Agency to produce consumer information on use restrictions and recommended best practices for lawn fertilizer containing phosphorus and on the best management practices for other residential sources of phosphorus in the urban landscape."

This appears not to have much of an impact on your fertilization program, as long as you base it on your soil tests, which most of us already do anyway. We will keep you informed as details become available. Or, better yet, sign up to be on the MAGCS Advocacy and Compliance Committee, so that you can be one to make a difference. One of the issues we all face and will continue to face is water use. Luke Cella has recently started to attend and represent the golf course superintendents and the Green Industry Association at monthly meetings of the Northeastern Illinois Water Supply Planning Group. In January 2006, Governor Blagojevich issued Executive Order 2006-1, calling for a statewide study of water-supply issues. The Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) has been commissioned by the State of Illinois Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to facilitate such a process for an 11-county planning area of northeastern Illinois. They meet each month to formulate this study. To find more information about this process you can visit: www.cmap.illinois.gov. -OC

#### SUPER -N- SITE

Joshua Therrien, St. Charles Country Club

## Gilberto Velazquez -N-



Gilberto (Gil) Velazquez has served as the dedicated Golf Course Superintendent of White

Eagle Golf Club for the past eighteen seasons. White Eagle is a private club located in suburban Naperville that opened in 1989. Shortly thereafter, Gil took over the reigns in 1990. The club was originally established as an eighteen-hole course designed by Arnold Palmer. However, construction was far from complete. In 1995, an additional nine holes were added. "Maintaining a twenty-seven hole course has its challenges due to multiple tee off locations," says Gil. "Staying ahead of a.m. golfers can be difficult at times." Even with its difficulties, Gilberto has done a spectacular job of managing a great facility.

Gil is no stranger to the challenges of the industry. In the years of 1992, '93, and '94, White Eagle was host to the LPGA's Sun Times Challenge. While under the spotlight, Gil and the White Eagle maintenance staff preformed miraculously

for the three years of the tournament. As Gil looks back to preparing for the tournament fourteen years ago now, it just "seemed like a normal weekend." The current summer staff includes up to twentyeight crewmembers with three crew foremen. Future projects may include bunker renovation.

Due to his dedication, hard work, and loyalty, Gilberto has been an exemplar of "living the American dream." Gil arrived in the Chicago area at age seventeen as an immigrant from his homeland in Mexico. Leaving his parents and many other family members back in Mexico, he knew that the road ahead was going to be a long one. Remaining posi-

tive, he began work as a crewmember at Cress Creek Country Club in Naperville. Being quick and eager to learn without being afraid to get his hands dirty, Gil worked his way up the ladder. In a few short years, he had been promoted to a Crew Foreman. Not stopping there, Gil kept his nose to the grindstone and was promoted to Golf Course Superintendent in 1982. He served as Cress Creek's Superintendent for eight years before moving on to White Eagle.

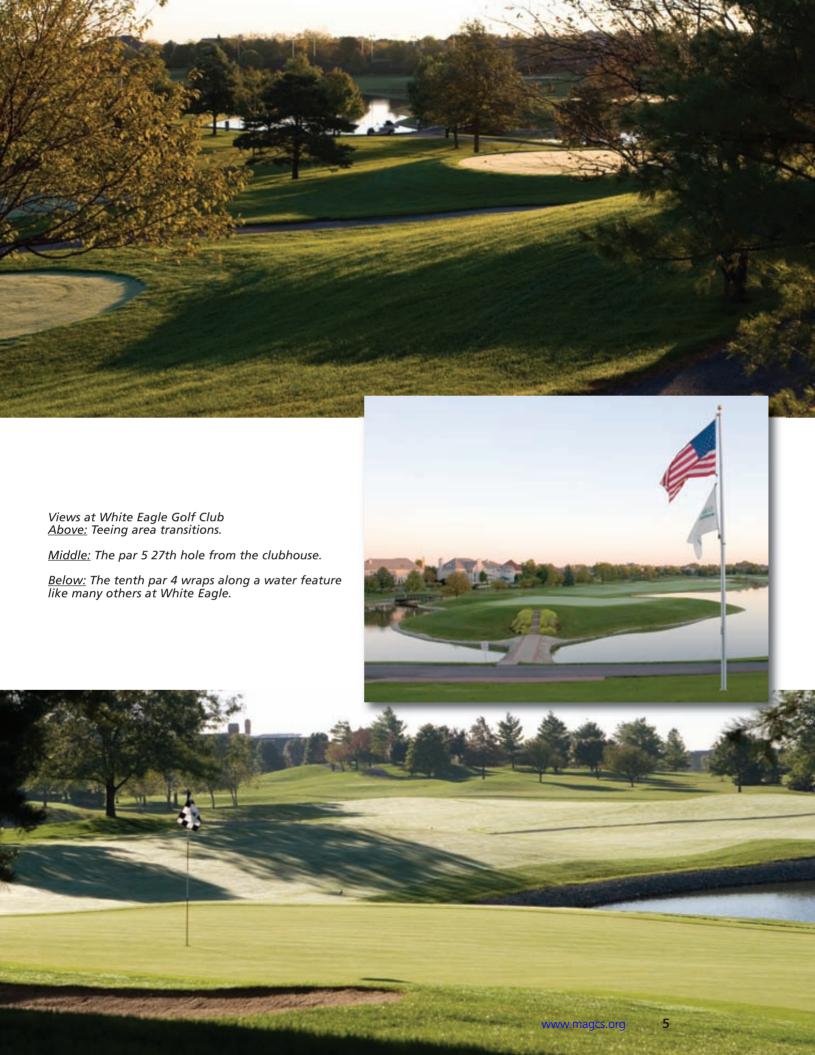
As devoted as Gil is to his career, he is even more committed to his family. Gil and his wife, Arcelia, live in Aurora, where they have raised three successful children. Gilberto Jr. runs his own landscape company. The Velazquezes also have two daughters. Araceli works for a local medical company, and Elizabeth is in her final year at Northern Illinois University. Two or three times each year the Velazquezes travel to Mexico to visit many members of their family.

While at home, Gil enjoys watching baseball and is also an avid bowler. He also tries to get out on the course to play at least once a week in the summer. That Gil has

done a fine job of balancing a good family life with managing a successful career is something we can all appreciate. **-OC** 



Gilberto Velazguez





### Conditions worthy of devotion.

Only courses that transcend the ordinary have an eternal allure. A course treated with Primo MAXX, the premier plant growth regulator, can create that appeal. Primo MAXX promotes thicker and stronger turf, providing the best in course conditions for the golfer. It also preconditions the turf for the stresses of the summer season and heavy use. Superintendents find that their fairways are greener and require fewer mowings, saving fuel and maintenance costs—many think of it as "liquid labor."

At Syngenta we understand why some golfers spend their entire lives—or maybe even longer—looking to play a course with pristine conditions.

FEATURE ARTICLE | Tim Anderson, CGCS, Naperville Country Club



## Charles Bartlett – A Historical Tribute

The year is 1924. It is a leap year. The "Golden Age of Golf" is at its height. Many of the game's greatest architects are plying their trade throughout the United States. Among them: Ross, Mackenzie, Tillinghast, and Raynor. In sports, the Washington Senators defeat the New York Giants (4-3) in the World Series. The Kansas City Monarchs defeat Hilldale in the first official Negro League World Series. The Cleveland Bulldogs win the National Football League Title. The Montreal Canadians win the Stanley Cup. Paris, France, hosts the 1924 Summer Olympics, and the first ever Winter Olympic Games take place in Chamonix, France.

The world is a rapidly changing place. The first cross country flight from Long Island to San Francisco takes place, lasting 21 hours and 48 minutes. Television is in its infancy. The first public demonstration of TV is performed when Charles Jenkins transmits moving silhouette images from Washington, D. C., to the Anacostia Naval Base. The images are transferred via telephone wires. The term "television" is coined by Constantin Perskyi at the First International Electricity Congress held in Paris. Astrologer Edwin Hubble announces the existence of other galaxies outside of the Milky Way. A fledging company called IBM is founded. New York City hosts the first Thanksgiving Day Parade. Bootleggers in the U.S. seek superior fire power as they adopt

the Thompson sub-machine gun as their weapon of choice.
On the political scene, Calvin Coolidge is elected the 30th

President of the United States, after filling out the balance of the Presidential term vacated by Warren Harding, who died while in office. Vladimir Lenin dies and is buried in Moscow's Red Square. Three days later the city of St. Petersburg is renamed Leningrad (the name St. Petersburg is returned to the city in 1991). The



Charles Bartlett

death of Lenin marks the end of Leninism and the beginning of Stalinism in the Soviet Union. Stalin goes on to rule the Soviet Union from 1922 until 1953. J. Edgar Hoover is appointed as the head of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. And a 35-year-old Adolf Hitler begins to write *Mein Kampf* while imprisoned in a Bavarian jail.

In the world of golf, neither the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (originally founded as the National Association of Greenkeepers of America, NAGA) nor the Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents (MAGCS) exists. Both associations come into existence over the next two years. The USGA rules that steel shafted clubs are legal. Bobby Jones wins his first U.S. Amateur title. Walter Hagen wins the first of

four consecutive PGA Championship titles. Cyril Walker is victorious at the U.S. Open.

Many significant events occurred in the year 1924, so it is easy to see how something as trivial as a 19-year-old teenager being hired as a staff member for the *Chicago Tribune* could be so easily overlooked.

(continued on page 9)

## In this game, it's all about perfect execution.





When Golf Creations was selected to build *Canyata*, we recognized the importance of executing every detail perfectly—without losing sight of the big picture. And *Golf Digest* recognized *Canyata* as one of the best new courses of 2005.

Whether you are planning for new construction or renovations, you can count on us to bring the same level of execution to your project. If you demand nothing less than perfection, give us a call.

### **GOLF**CREATIONS

Building on Experience

815.923.1868 • www.golfcreations.com

Canyata photos © Joann Dost









www.centralsod.com

#### **Charles Bartlett**

Charles Bartlett was born on April 27, 1905. He lived with his parents on Chicago's south side and graduated from St. Ignatius High School. He joined the staff of the *Chicago Tribune* on August 18, 1924, shortly after his graduation. Charles' lifelong association with sports began when he was a youngster selling hot dogs at White Sox games. He had an interest in boxing, and, for a brief period of time, was the editor of a boxing publication called the *Chicago Gong*. Bartlett also worked as a spotter for WGN radio covering football events, The Kentucky Derby, and The Indy 500.

When he joined the *Tribune*, Bartlett started out in the public service office. In 1926 he became editor of the Tribune Company Magazine titled *The Trib*. From 1927 to 1928 Bartlett

compiled the first Chicago Tribune Sports Almanac. In 1928 he was promoted to the position of editorial reporter and became a copy reader for the sports department. It wasn't until 1931 that Charles Bartlett landed his first regular assignment as golf editor of the Chicago Tribune. His regular column, titled "The Locker Room," appeared in the Sunday edition of the *Tribune* and was long identified as one of the best read columns in the paper. In 1937 (at the age of 36) Bartlett married his wife Catherine. They had two children, Michael and Peter. Bartlett held the position of golf editor for the Chicago Tribune for 36 years. He died of a heart attack on November 6, 1967, at the age of 62.

#### **His Legacy**

At first blush this might not appear to be the story of an individual who had a lasting impact on the

history of golf in the United States, but as we dig deeper, the connection between Charles Bartlett and the game that he loved so much becomes very clear. Bartlett was a co-founder of the Chicago Tribune Golf School. The inaugural event was held on May 22, 1933. The first event of its kind, 27 local Chicago golf courses banded together to provide free golf instruction to men, women, and children of all ages. Fifteen thousand participants attended the first school. The Tribune Golf School evolved into an annual event that, at that time, was the largest program in the country promoting instruction in the game of golf. The program was soon copied in major cities around the United States. The junior golf programs of today owe their inspiration to the blueprint provided by the Tribune program.

On August 25, 1946, Charles Bartlett was at the Portland Golf Club reporting on the PGA Championship. Ben Hogan won the event that year. At the conclusion of the tournament, Charles Bartlett met up with Russ Newland, editor for the Associated Press, and George Bertz, sports editor for the *Oregon Journal*. The three men gathered at an empty ice cream stand located on the course grounds and formed the Golf Writers Association of America (GWAA). A plaque commemorating

this event is still displayed next to the 18th green at the Portland Golf Club. Bartlett was appointed Secretary of the newly formed GWAA, a position that he held for 21 years, until the time of his death.

Bartlett covered 32 consecutive Masters from 1935 till 1967. His legacy is so entwined with the Masters Tournament and the Golf Writers Association of America that the press room at Augusta National bears his name. In 1961 Bartlett won the Brunswick-MacGregor Golf Writers Competition for his story on Jerry Barber's victory over Don January in the National Professional Championship. The same year he was awarded third place in the Associated Press Writers Competition for a story he did on Walter Hagen. Bartlett's reputation for incorporating accuracy and detail in his writing was unparalleled.

On February 27, 1968, The Golf Writers Association of America paid its highest tribute to Bartlett when they posthumously awarded him the William D. Richardson Trophy. Over 800 sports figures of the day were on hand when Michael Bartlett accepted the award on behalf of his father. The Richardson Trophy was instituted by the Golf Writers Association in 1947. The annual award is given in memory of Bill Richardson, golf editor of the New York Times. It is presented to individuals for outstanding contributions to the game of golf. As the 21st recipient of the award, Bartlett joined the likes of Chick Evans and Bobby Jones.

In 1970 the GWAA sought to further solidify Bartlett's legacy and so established the Charles Bartlett Award. This annual award is given by the Golf Writers Association to an active player in recognition of his outstanding humanitarian effort

and charitable work. The first Charles Bartlett Award presented by the GWAA was given to Billy Casper. Since 1970 additional Bartlett Award Winners have included: Tiger Woods, Greg Norman, Lee Trevino, Chi Chi Rodriguez, and Arnold Palmer to name a few.

Based on the strength of his contributions to the game of golf, Charles Bartlett was inducted into the Illinois Golf Hall of Fame in 1989.



For all that Bartlett did for golf, he never placed energy or effort in growing his own game.

#### **Proponent of the Golf Course Superintendent**

During an era before television, at a time when the internet, websites, blogs, pod-casts, and cell phones did not exist, the print media served not only as a primary means of communication, but also of education. From the beginning Charles Bartlett was an advocate of the golf course superintendent. Today our industry is faced with the challenge of growing the game of golf. The GCSAA monitors the role of the golf course superintendent as it relates to the enjoyment of the game of golf, the superintendents' role in contributing to the economic vitality of the facility, and the superintendents' role as an authority on issues

(continued on page 10)

related to course maintenance. Bartlett understood these principals 75 years ago. Tens of thousands of golfers were introduced to the game through the Tribune Golf School program. Bartlett routinely attended monthly MAGCS meetings to visit with superintendents and to gain insight into our profession. He frequently used his column as a platform that gave Chicago area superintendents a means to communicate with the golfing public. Bartlett went out of his way to recognize golf course superintendents as a group of individuals integral to the success of the golf course and to the enjoyment of the game.

In an article dated August 4, 1931, (just a couple of months after being promoted to the position of golf editor) Bartlett reported on an emergency meeting held by local green keepers to compare notes on a recent epidemic that had caused extensive damage to putting surfaces throughout the Chicago area. The problem was traced back to a heavy rain storm

on June 28, followed by 10 days of extreme heat. The effect of the damage was apparent almost overnight. The greens hit hardest were the "mixed" Poa annua type greens. The "solid" bentgrass type greens fared better. The discussion also focused on the cost associated with controlling the epidemic and the financial strain that it would place on operating budgets. During the meeting one superintendent was quoted as making the following recommendation, "I would like to suggest that the subject of golf course maintenance needs a scientific study close at hand, a study of condition under our own central western climate and soil conditions. What better equipped organization is there for undertaking this work than the agriculture experimental station of the University of Illinois?"

In an article dated April 28, 1932, Bartlett reported on the Midwest Turf Garden located on the private course at the estate of Albert D. Lasker. The turf plots (reported to have been located just west of the first tee) were under the direction of the USGA Green Section. Planted in 1929, they provided research information on cutting height, irrigation requirements, fertility prac-

tices, reaction to exposure from sun and wind, treatments for Brown Patch, Dollar Spot, and Pythium. New for 1932 was an experiment that incorporated peat and sand mixed together for a "looser" green construction foundation. Later, in September of that same year, Bartlett wrote a follow-up article on the Midwest Turf Plots. During a fall golf and education field day that was held at the Lasker course, the USGA made an unexpected announcement that it would be closing the Lasker turf plots as well as the turf plots located at Arlington, in Washington D.C. Budget constraints were cited as the reason for the decision. At the time these turf plots were the principal source for information related to turfgrass research in the United States. Bartlett reported that those in attendance vowed to keep the Midwest Turf Garden solvent even if it meant providing subsidies from local clubs and association to achieve the goal.

In the spring of 1949 Bartlett published a letter that he had sent to his long time friend, and founder of the Augusta National Golf Club, Bobby Jones. In the letter Bartlett blasted the Masters for their ever increasing fees. He recalled the "early days" when the press sleeping quarters were on the porch outside the clubhouse. He classified the then current hotel rates of \$8.00 per day (including meals) as exorbitant.

In January of 1959 Bartlett reported on the 30th National Turfgrass Conference and Show hosted by the GCSAA. The event boasted over 1000 participants and was held at the Sherman Hotel in downtown Chicago. Seminar topics included:

- The Club Manager and the Superintendent
- The Golf Professionals Appreciation of the Superintendent
- Professional Training, by Professor Burton Musser
- Basic Principals of Golf Course Architecture, by David Gill
- Research Updates
- Living with Golf Carts
- Progressive Superintendents and Their Practices (a movie with sound by O. J. Noer)
- Improved Efficiency Reduces Costs
- Speeding Up Play
- The Pro-Superintendent; The Job Is Open
- Planning Your Service Building
- Secrets of Successful Superintendents, by Chester Mendenhall

The September 28,1966, issue of "The Locker Room" congratulated Peter Voykin, who Bartlett described as "one of four Canadian-born brothers who tends Chicago District golf courses," and Emil Mashie, green keeper at Onwentsia Club, for retaining their association championship. Voykin won the MAGCS championship flight with a 76 while Mashie won the senior flight with a 78. The event was held at Flossmoor Country Club. On December 11, 1966, Bartlett reported on the annual election of officers for the MAGCS Board of Directors The election was held at Midlothian Country Club. Dudley Smith (superintendent at Silver Lakes Golf Course) was elected MAGCS President.

On March 22, 1967, Bartlett sat in on a MAGCS meeting held at River Forest Country Club. He reported on the snow mold outbreak that was hitting Chicago area courses. To blame was a combination of warm temperatures followed by a heavy accumulation of snow. On January 24th, the temperature rose to a balmy 65 degrees. The warm temperatures thawed the soil. On January 26th, a winter storm began to dump snow on the Chicago area. By the time that the storm ended on January 27th, area courses had been buried by 24 inches of snow cover. This was followed by and additional 13 inches on January 30th, and a final 13 inches on February 2nd. All told, an incredible 50 inches of snow recorded over a one week period. In his article Bartlett detailed how the superintendents would restore their courses in time for the approaching golf season.



Dan Dinelli, CGCS receives the Bartlett Award in 2008 to recognizing his work and his passion for the profession as those honored before him.