

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**



**DewCure
Treated**

Untreated



DewCure™

Moisture Suppression for Turf
From Mitchell Products, the makers
of TriCure Soil Surfactants

Reinders

Solutions & Supplies for the Green Industry

SOFT GOODS SALES

Bruce Schweiger (608) 206-3500
Tim Keating (630) 885-7587 • Bruce Woehrle (847) 456-1275

COMMERCIAL EQUIPMENT SALES

Whitey Anderson (630) 251-4832
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

2009 Board of Directors

PRESIDENT

Tony Kalina, Prairie Landing G.C.

VICE PRESIDENT

Scott Witte, CGCS, Cantigny G.C.

SECRETARY / TREASURER

Dan Sterr, Stonebridge C.C.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Luke Cella

BOARD

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

Robert Kohlstedt, Fox Bend Golf Course

Harry Lovero, Orchard Valley G.C.

Michael Siefken, Sportsman's C.C.

Dan Sterr, Stonebridge C.C.

Mark Thibault, Links at Carillon

Tim White, Prestwick C.C.

PRESIDENT EMERITUS

Dave Braasch, Glen Erin G.C.

COMMERCIAL REPRESENTATIVE

Sharon Riesenbeck, Waupaca Sand & Solutions

CLASS 'C' REPRESENTATIVE

Scott Verdun, Merit Club

TURFGRASS ADVISOR

Dr. Derek Settle

EDITORIAL CHAIRMAN

Harry Lovero

ASSOCIATE EDITORS

John Gurke

Chuck Anfield

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



The 2nd Hole at The Club at Strawberry Creek, designed by MAGCS member Rick Jacobson.

FRONT COVER

The 8th hole at The Club at Strawberry Creek, site of the 2009 Dom Grotti, Senior and Class C Championships, hosted by MAGCS member Matt Kregel.
Cover and above photo: Paul Hundley Photography

DIRECTOR'S COLUMN

3 MAGCS Employment & Membership Update

Mark Thibault

FEATURES

4 Matt Kregel -N- The Club at Strawberry Creek

Ryan Hanners

7 The 2009 Slheim Cupt at Rich Harvest Farms

Jeff VerCautren

9 One More Avenue – the Podcast

Jason Sarna and Luke Cella

TETA

15 Out Going President's Note of Thanks

Ted Soenksen

DEPARTMENTS

16 the Bull Sheet

John Gurke

27 Education Recap

Charles Anfield



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.

All editorial and advertisement inquiries should be directed to Luke Cella, Publisher, *On Course*. 11855 Archer Avenue, Lemont, IL, 60439. (630) 243-7900 or visit www.magcs.org for rates and requirements. Statements of fact and opinion are the responsibility of the authors alone and do not imply an opinion on the part of the officers or members.

If You Are Looking at a Walking Greens Mower... Start from the Ground Up.



Jacobsen® Walking Greens Mowers
now feature Classic XP™ Reels
with Advanced Relief Technology.™



Valhalla Golf Club-Louisville, KY

Experience The Eclipse™

The Jacobsen® Eclipse™ 100 series provides the ultimate combination of cutting performance and greater control. A combination that is tough to beat. From Classic XP™ Reels with Advanced Relief Technology™, Legendary™ Bedknives, Rollers, and MAGKnife™ to Turf Groomers® and Verticutters, our line of walking greens mowers feature a complete **Greens Management System** and the **best quality-of-cut on the market**. Additionally, the Eclipse 100 series includes **industry-exclusive technology** such as independent adjustable ground speed, reel speed, FOC and weight balance and the latest in hybrid or battery drives. These walking greens mowers provide superior results day in and day out that cannot be imitated. Experience the Jacobsen difference today.

**NO INTEREST
NO PAYMENTS
UNTIL AUGUST 2009!**

CONTACT YOUR LOCAL DEALER FOR DETAILS ON THIS PROGRAM.

Burris
EQUIPMENT

Burris Equipment Company
2216 N. Greenbay Road
Waukegan, IL 60087

For more information about Jacobsen walking greens mowers call 1.888.922.turf or visit www.jacobsen.com



PGA

TEXTRON FINANCIAL

Golf Equipment Finance

JACOBSEN
A Textron Company

When Performance Matters.™

The Official Turf Equipment Supplier to The PGA of America and The Exclusive Turf Equipment Supplier to PGA Golf Properties.
© January 2009, Jacobsen, A Textron Company.

DIRECTOR'S COLUMN

Mark Thibault, Carillon Golf Club



MAGCS Employment & Membership Update

The 2009 golf season is upon us. Because the 2009 season seems unlike any other, there are many unanswered questions for the Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents. Will the number of job postings be higher than usual? Will golf courses have higher employment turnovers? Will our golf events have a lower turnout? How will the economy affect the association's membership numbers?

The MAGCS is an important venue for listing job opportunities. Employers simply fill out a questionnaire, and the information is posted as a job opening. The following figures illustrate how beneficial our services have been both for facilities and members. During the year 2005, 16 jobs were posted with the MAGCS: 7 Superintendent positions, 5 Assistant or Second Assistant positions, and 4 Technician positions. In 2006, 14 jobs were posted: 3 Superintendent, 8 Assistant or Second Assistant, 1 Director of Grounds, 1 Territory Manager, and 1 Assistant Technician. In 2007, 29 jobs were posted: 6 Superintendent positions, 18 Assistants, 4 Technicians, and 1 Horticulturist. During the year 2008, 22 jobs were posted: 4 Superintendent, 16 Assistant, and 2 Technician positions. So far, in 2009, 21 jobs have been posted: 6 Superintendent, 12 Assistant, and 3 Technician positions. We provide a valuable resource where courses and golf-related businesses can list their job opportunities. This can only be a positive for those interested in entering the golf industry.

One recent change to the employment section of the website is any non-superintendent posting is available to the world. Only superintendent postings are password protected, so if you are searching for a key staff member, think of the MAGCS website as your place to begin your search.

A membership in the Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents can be beneficial for many and different reasons. Some members attend our events for networking, some for education, and some for the golf outings. Whatever the reason, our membership has grown through recent years. In 2006 we had 666 members; in 2007 we had 780 members; in 2008 we had 799 members; and in 2009, to date, we have 768 members.

...if you are searching for a key staff member, think of the MAGCS website as your place to begin your search.

This year the Board of Directors is hoping to see more members than usual venture out to different events. If you usually attend the golf outings, how about inviting someone that normally would not attend? Or, how about golfing in a different foursome? During 2009, try attending educational events and giving MAGCS your feedback, good or bad. If you are a seasoned member, invite newer members to our organization. Try to introduce yourself to new members at events. Ask newer members to join your foursome at the next golf outing or even invite them to play golf at your establishment. Whether as seasoned superintendents or new superintendents, we can all learn from each other. We have a great organization, and we hope you will take the time to be more involved on any level. **-OC**

SUPER -N- SITE

Ryan Hinnars, *Sunset Ridge Country Club*

Matt Kregel -N-



On June 15, the MAGCS members will be taking a short trip just over the Northern Illinois border into the beautiful land of Wisconsin. They will visit The Club at Strawberry Creek, hosted by Superintendent Matt Kregel. There will be plenty of competitions: the Senior and Super Senior Championships, the Class C Championship, and the Dom Grotti Championship, where the Superintendent and his Assistant are paired together as a team, competing with other teams of the same make-up. This Championship honors Domenic Grotti, a long time Superintendent at Sunset Ridge Country Club, who always encouraged Assistant Superintendents to participate in both local and national associations.

Matt Kregel grew up south of Chicago in the small village of Beecher. You might miss the Village of Beecher if you blink. It may or may not have any stoplights, but it's big enough for a 27-hole golf course – Shady Lawn Golf Course (now named Cardinal Creek). This home town course is where Matt was introduced to the game of golf by his grandfather and uncle. They would bring him along to drive the golf cart and caddy for them. As an 8th grader Matt was parking carts, helping in the clubhouse, and mowing lawns. At the age of 16, he was brought over to the grounds crew by Jerry Crist and John Hogan. He had an arrangement worked out where he would change cups or mow greens in the morning before he went to class. He also worked weekends. Matt continued to work at Shady Lawn for his summer job. He was unknowingly preparing for his future in the golf course industry.

Matt's college education began at Illinois State University as a business major. While attending college, Matt worked part time and weekends at the ISU Golf Course under Steve Leason. After two years of business classes, he realized that he did not want to work indoors and stare at a computer all day. His love for working outdoors and working at a golf course led him to a major decision. Matt not only changed his college major but



The Kregels, clockwise from Matt are his wife Rosa and kids Hannah, Tyler, and Isabel.

he also had to change universities.

He transferred to the University of Illinois and enrolled in the Ornamental Horticulture program with a concentration in turfgrass management.

During his schooling at the U of I, Matt interned at two private clubs in the south suburbs of Chicago. First, at Prestwick Country Club for Dick Trevarthan and, later, he served a second internship with Dave Ward at Olympia Fields. This was in 1997, when they hosted the Senior Open. Matt graduated from the University of Illinois and accepted a job with the Ivanhoe Club. He was there for the next seven years, three as a Second Assistant and four as the Senior Assistant. In his tenure with the Ivanhoe Club, Matt had the opportunity to work with two respected individuals, Peter Leuzinger and Tom Prichard.

At Ivanhoe, the high level of golf course conditioning and the 27-hole master plan renovation provided invaluable experiences that helped groomed Matt for

his future. He encourages all aspiring Superintendents to gain renovation and construction experience as an Assistant. Clubs are always looking to update and remain competitive. Matt says it was at Ivanhoe Club that he gained his experience in golf course construction, which in turn gave him

the qualifications for the Superintendent position at The Club at Strawberry Creek.

The ground was broken in spring 2004 to start the golf course and housing development at Strawberry Creek. In the spring of 2005, Matt took over as superintendent while course construction continued. By the fall of '05 the grow-in was complete. Some invited rounds were being played that fall. The following spring the course opened with mature, healthy turf and ready to be enjoyed.

Designed by award-winning Rick Jacobsen, The Club at Strawberry Creek opened in April 2006, with prairie landscapes and native grasses that create a "links style" feel. The course has 50 acres of bentgrass with rolling hills, generous landing areas off the tees, hidden rollofs, wetlands, 126 bunkers, and fescue native areas. It is a family oriented club, which is geared to any style of play from novice to professional. The clubhouse was designed and built with the entire family in mind; from the resort-style swimming pools, to the fitness center, to the activity room for the kids, to the spa for the ladies (and men). For the first couple years, the club was a private one that allowed outside play in order to drum up interest. With the completion of the brand new state-of-the-art clubhouse in February 2009, the club became fully private.

***RIGHT:** The 6th hole, a short par 4 at 299 yards presents an interesting choice off the tee.*

***BELOW:** The 17th hole, another short par 4 has a very receptive green.*

After being involved with every aspect of the construction from the ground up, to the grow-in, to facilities, Matt and his Assistant, Jeremy Dahl, are both looking forward to entering the 2009 season with no major projects scheduled. Matt says Jeremy "is a huge part of the success at Strawberry Creek." They are both excited to be getting back to maintaining the greens and grounds. When Matt is not at the club he enjoys spending time with his wife, Rosa, and kids Isabel, Hannah, and Tyler. The three young kids keep him on his toes. Matt is a Fighting Illini fan who bleeds orange and blue for U of I football and basketball. Those colors also work for being a Bears fan. In the land of cheese there are bears; one of Matt's owners is former Chicago Bear, Jay Hilgenberg. Matt is a Chicago Cubs fan as well and very much enjoys attending games at Wrigley Field and Wrigley North (Miller Park).

MAGCS thanks Matt and Jeremy in advance for hosting this year's Championship Golf Meeting. We look forward to playing the Midwest's most exciting new venue. **-OC**



"We're not quick to switch products — but in side by side tests, Quali-Pro's T-NEX® worked equally as well, if not better. We loved the results, and we're pretty conscientious about economic inputs, so switching to T-NEX was a logical choice. It's been a great decision on our part."

Jeff Plotts, Director of Golf Course Maintenance, TPC Scottsdale



Today, superintendents need both quality and value. And that's exactly what Quali-Pro has been delivering since day one. Proven plant protection products featuring the newest formulation technologies at an unprecedented value.

Unsurpassed Quality. Outstanding Value. Get to know Quali-Pro.

For more information, contact Doug Suttor at 616-403-3983 or any of these authorized Chicagoland distributors: Arthur Clesen Inc • BTSI • Conserv FS

QUALI-PRO

Professional Turf & Ornamental Products

©2009 FarmSaver.com, LLC. Quali-Pro and T-NEX are registered trademarks of FarmSaver.com. Know The Sign is a trademark of FarmSaver.com. Always read and follow label directions.

FEATURE ARTICLE I
Jeff VerCautren, *Rich Harvest Farms*



The 2009 Solheim Cup at Rich Harvest Farms

The Solheim Cup is a biennial, trans-Atlantic team match-play competition featuring the best U.S.-born players from the Ladies Professional Golf Association (LPGA) Tour and the best European members from the Ladies European Tour (LET). The U.S. Team leads the competition, 7-3, and has never lost The Solheim Cup on home soil. In 2009, the Americans will be looking to keep their untarnished home record intact at Rich Harvest Farms in Sugar Grove.

U.S. Solheim Cup team captain, Beth Daniel, a member at Rich Harvest Farms, will lead a cast of 12 Americans against Allison Nicholas' European team from August 17-23, 2009. Daniel, a player on eight U.S. Solheim Cup Teams, was assistant captain for the U.S. Team at the 2007 Solheim Cup in Hamstad, Sweden.

"I am very excited that the Solheim Cup is being played at Rich Harvest Farms," said Daniel. "The layout of the course adds to the risk and reward of match play competition."

The rich history of The Solheim Cup dates back to 1990 when the first international competition was held in Orlando. Since then, the event has grown not only in patriotism, but also in fan involvement. The 2005 Solheim Cup at Crooked Stick Golf Club in Carmel, Indiana, sold out eight months in advance via a random drawing. A record 103,000 attended the last staging of The Solheim Cup on American soil, and estimates for the 2009 crowd are pushing 150,000.

"The greater Chicago area is a perfect venue for this event and we couldn't be more excited to make a variety of ticket packages available to fans in the United States and abroad," said Kelly Hyne, 2009 Solheim Cup executive director. "Rich Harvest Farms provides a fantastic layout for fans and corporate guests to experience the event in a unique setting."

Fans from around the world can purchase tickets at www.solheimcup.com or by phone at 866-848-4639. Tickets at Rich Harvest Farms will be limited to 40,000 fans per day.

The Solheim Cup is named in honor of Karsten Solheim, and his family, the makers of PING golf equipment. In addition

to founding sponsor PING, Global Partners of The Solheim Cup include AIB Group and Rolex. All GCSAA members will be able to enter the event with their card but guests will have to pay at the door.

For more information on the 2009 Solheim Cup, including a schedule of events, hotels and accommodations, log on to www.SolheimCup.com.

Rich Harvest Farms is Going Green for the Cup

In preparation for hosting the 2009 Solheim Cup, Rich Harvest Farms is going even greener. The staff at Rich Harvest is proud to be working at a facility that can be rated in Golf Digest's "Top 100 of America's Greatest Golf Courses" and still be 'green.'

Over the years, RHF has consistently used integrated pest management to limit chemical and fertilizer application on the golf course. To limit the use of water, we have one of the most up-to-date irrigation systems. Ninety percent of all the water features (ponds, creeks, and streams) on the property are bordered with native grasses both to reduce runoff and to filter the water that runs through and off the property.

Along with these practices, within the last two years RHF has refurbished a horse stable and arena into lodging for the club's membership. When compared to building new, this practice of refurbishing has reduced waste in landfills and limited the resources needed for construction. During the stable's renovation, a geothermal energy source was used for heating

(continued on next page)

and cooling. Initially, this geo-thermal installation was more expensive, but the energy savings in the long run will give the club a good return on the investment. According to the Environmental Protection Agency, geo-exchange systems save homeowners 30-70% in heating costs and 20-50% in cooling when compared to conventional systems.

The next step RHF took toward going green was the implementation of a recycling program. Based on their experiences at home, many people think that this would be fairly simple, but getting the staff, membership, and guests to buy into this program has not been easy. The golf course and grounds maintenance has been on the program for a year. They have reduced the waste going straight to the dump by 40%. Because of these positive results, a recycling program has been implemented for the entire club and estate.

This year RHF is also changing to B11 (Biodiesel blended 11%) diesel fuel. Biodiesel is a renewable resource; it reduces harmful emissions. Research has shown that engines that run on biodiesel need less maintenance. The cost of biodiesel is a little higher, but the state of Illinois exempts users of sales tax if the blend they use is greater than 10% (B10). This tax break gives about a 10-cent-per-gallon savings when compared to the price of regular fuel.

Rich Harvest Farms is also investigating a program for changing the irrigation pump house controls to Variable Frequency Drive. An adjustable speed drive often uses less energy than an alternative fixed speed mode of operation.

When a pump is driven by a fixed speed motor, the flow can sometimes be higher than it needs to be. Flow can be regulated by using a damper, but it is more efficient to regulate the speed of the motor. It follows from the affinity laws that reducing pump speed by 50% results in a power consumption drop of 12.5%. In addition, the electricity supplier, Commonwealth Edison, also provides incentives up to \$7 per horsepower for qualifying premium efficiency motors.

The Kids Golf Foundation of Illinois, housed at Rich Harvest Farms, is dedicated to bringing the sport of golf into the lives of young children and providing them with an opportunity for personal growth and career enhancement. The Foundation offers and supports several junior golf programs. These are designed to introduce children between the ages of 5 and 15 to the sport of golf, its fundamentals, rules, history, etiquette, and more. Rich Harvest Farms is also working with Boy Scout and Girl Scout troops. They go on nature walks and talk to RHF representatives about golf courses and their environment. Our outreach to the community allows us to become stewards of our local environment.

With all these practices in place, Rich Harvest Farms looks forward to becoming one of the community leaders in smart business solutions for the environment. These business solutions will result in a greener Solheim Cup tournament and a greener business in the future. **-OC**



Tour-Redi
USGA. Spec Sand Based
Bent Grass

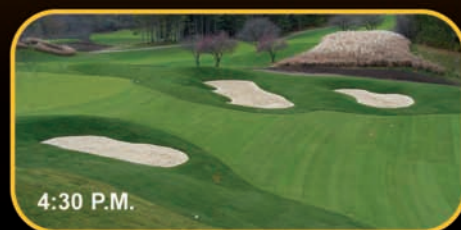
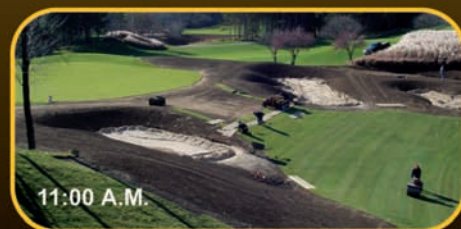
*Lay it and
Play it!*

CENTRAL SOD
Tour-Redi Turf

- USGA Spec Sand Based
- Available in "Greens" Height
- Multiple Varieties
- Custom Grown to Your Specifications
- Delivered and Installed Throughout the Midwest
- Poa Free!
- Sand Based Low-Mow Bluegrass at Tee height

Water Saver Sod Fescue Sod Available

1-800-310-0402



www.centralsod.com

FEATURE II

Jason Sarna, Luke Cella, MAGCS



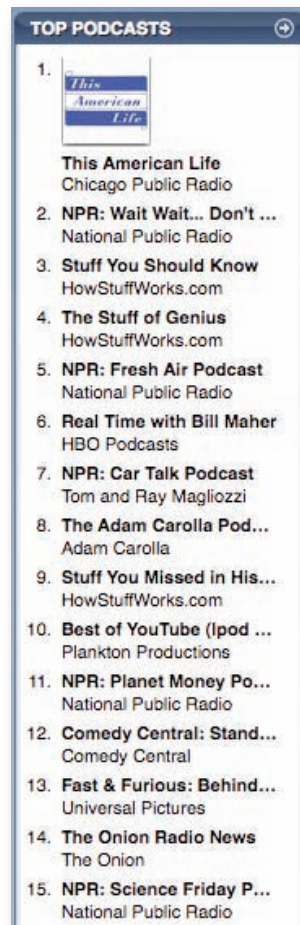
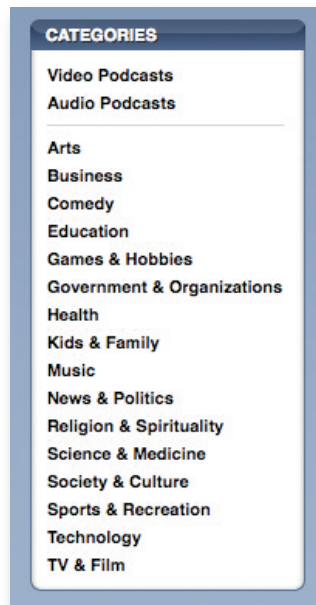
One More Avenue – the Podcast

A Podcast is basically a free, no commercial, audio or video file that's not controlled by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and universally available to download, listen to, and share. The name, Podcast, derives from the words "iPod" and "Broadcast." There is no real significance to this name; other than it's a type of broadcast that can be uploaded onto an iPod.

Unlike normal radio, Podcasts are not controlled by the FCC. This means that there are no restrictions on the content; therefore, Podcast hosts are free to say whatever they wish without any interference. Think of Podcasts like small uncensored talk shows about anything and everything minus the constant commercials (some Podcasts may contain commercials, but they're often very minimal, and usually at the very beginning or the very end.)

Who Makes a Podcast?

Anyone with a computer, microphone, sound board, Internet access, and headset can create their own Podcast. Besides from that, you just need something to talk about. Podcasts allow anyone the opportunity to own and operate their own personal radio show. With that said, expect to encounter some pretty horrendous Podcasts. I've listened to many bad Podcasts— sometimes the audio is unbearable to listen to and other times the content is extremely dull. There are other factors that make a bad Podcast, but I'm mostly turned off by bad sound and boring content. There's a certain flow to good radio that seems easy but is hard to achieve.



If you are ever interested in creating your own Podcast or would like to learn more information, a good website to check out is <http://www.wikihow.com/Start-Your-Own-Podcast>. This site provides people with Podcasts Steps, Tips, Warnings, Things you Need and Related Sites. Creating your own Podcast is easy and a great hobby with endless possibilities.

Do I need an iPod to Hear a Podcast?

Podcasts can be listened to on the computer or uploaded onto any portable mp3 player. I own a 4GB (1,000 song capacity) iPod Nano, which works great. The only problem with the 4GB iPod is that the memory is limited, so I have to update it often. This doesn't take much time or bother me, but it's something you should consider before making an iPod purchase. If you're interested in purchasing an iPod, I recommend visiting their website <http://store.apple.com> or one of their various locations.

(continued on page 11)



GRUENMANN
CHICAGO • GERMANY

• WARRANTIED



Gruenmann used machines are the smart alternative.



View our current inventory at our web site.

• INSPECTED

WWW.GRUENMANNUSA.COM



ARTHUR CLESEN INC.

Dedicated to Service!

See the difference.

Quality products • Priced competitively • Prompt delivery

You get fast, courteous service from Arthur Clesen Inc.

We've staked our reputation on it.

Try us and see the difference.

▶ **WHEELING** p. 847.537.2177 f. 847.537.2210 ▶ **MOKENA** p. 708.444.2177 f. 708.479.9477