

while some other guys stay at work and cut down trees that they planted 15 years earlier.



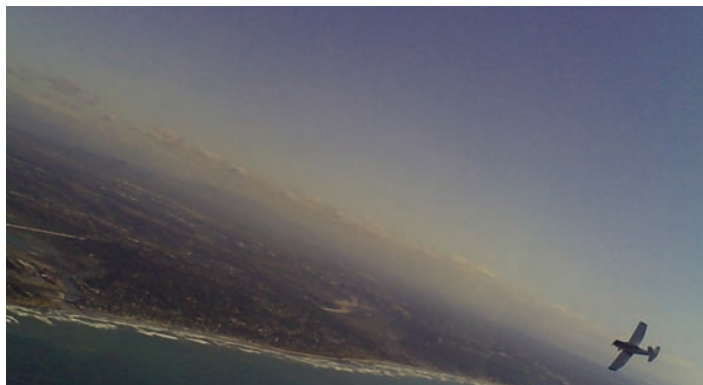
Hey, some guys use winter just to catch up on their sleep, dreaming strange dreams like Sumo wrestling with the Pillsbury Doughboy...



Some other guys get all artsy-fartsy and take pretty pictures of their golf courses that they hope will make them a million dollars getting published in a coffee table book ...



...while still others choose to defy death, doing nutty things like bungee jumping, polar plunging, or dogfighting over San Diego like **Mark Kosbab**, **Pat Maksymiu**, and **Joel Purpur**...



... and **Nick Marfise**, shown here in his Varga 21 before pulling 3 G's and becoming Nick Barf-ise.



Then some guys go all Hollywood, chasing their dream to be seen on the big screen, like **Doug Davis** did when he auditioned for and got a part in "Public Enemies" last year, and like **Andy Weadge** did, seen here auditioning for the lead role in the upcoming "The Hangover 2."



How can you not like winter?

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(continued on page 22)

Speaking of Andy Weadge, the following piece of equipment is for sale: Jacobsen Greens King, possibly gas, possibly diesel, many extras, some work required –make Andy an offer.



CLASSIFIEDS

Equipment For Sale: Another way to ease your budgets is to take a look at these fabulous offerings from your fellow superintendents:

- Park Ridge Country Club has the following items on the block: 1 Jacobsen LF 3400 Fairway Mower, year 2000, 3916 hours, asking \$4,900 OBO; 1 Ryan GA-60 Aerifier, year 2000, 261 hours, asking \$2,500 OBO; 1 Ford 250C Diesel Tractor with torque converter transmission, 1650 hours, asking \$8,000 OBO; 1 Ford 231 Tractor, 7137 hours, asking \$3,500 OBO. Call **Nick Marfise** at 708-224-8829 for details.
- Lincolnshire Country Club is selling a Tycrop MH400 Material Handler with only 20 hours of use, in excellent condition, with conveyer belt attachment included. Give **Brian Racette** or Harry a call at 708-672-5709 for information.
- And last but not least, a first-time-ever for this magazine. White Pines Golf Course has a Package Sewage Treatment Plant for sale. This is a membrane bioreactor package treatment plant with ultraviolet disinfection system and a 10,000-gallon per day capacity. It is a compact alternative to septic systems and aeration/settlement ponds. Equipment is housed in a modular concrete building with a 30'x8' footprint, and is manufactured by Enviroquip of Austin, Texas. It was originally installed in the fall of 2005 at a cost of \$300,000. The asking price is \$150,000. Contact **Steve Partyka** at 630-768-0906 or email him at partykasteve@yahoo.com.

The Golf Industry Show Recap

The GCSAA Education Conference in conjunction with the Golf Industry Show took place last month in San Diego, CA from the 8th through the 12th. A few days prior, some business was conducted out in Palm Springs where the National Championship & Golf Classic were held, and our MAGCS contingent represented us admirably! In the Championship itself, **Tim Scott, CGCS** of Stony Creek Golf Course was runner-up to victor Adam Hess, losing on the first hole of a playoff after making a rare bogey lipping out a 5-footer.



Tim Scott begins to line up the fateful 5-footer.



Tim much more comfortable doing the things he gets paid for each day.

Justin VanLanduit of Briarwood Country Club placed fourth, and **Dave Kohley** of Silver Lake Country Club finished 18th. In the Golf Classic, MAGCS had the following top ten finishers: Gross IV—**Brian Mores** 3rd; Net IV—**Brian Mores** 2nd; Gross V—**Steve VanAcker, CGCS** 8th; Net V—**Steve VanAcker, CGCS** 5th and **Paul Schaefer, CGCS** 9th; Gross VI—**Don Cross, CGCS** 6th; Net VI—**Don Cross, CGCS** 8th; Gross Senior—**Tommy Witt, CGCS** 1st; Net Senior **Bob Maibusch, CGCS**, MG 1st and **Tommy Witt, CGCS** 3rd; Gross Senior II—**Tim Davis** 2nd, **Ed Fischer, CGCS** 3rd, and **Tom Van De Walle** 7th; Senior II Net—**Tom Van De Walle** 6th and **Tim Davis** 7th; Super Senior Gross—**Bob Kronn** 1st; Super Senior Net—**Bob Kronn** 6th. The news was even better in the Chapter Competition, where two MAGCS teams took first place honors—Team Midwest 4 (**Al Fierst, Don Cross, Bob Maibusch, and Tommy Witt**) won the Net Division while Team Midwest 2 (**Tim Scott, Dave Kohley, Tommy Robinson, and Justin Van Landuit**) took the Gross Division. Congratulations to all of these competitors! But enough about that.

On it was to San Diego for the Show. On first impression, the trade show was a bustling beehive of activity—booths were full of product reps and potential customers alike, the aisles were crowded with attendees, and things generally appeared positive. A nice new feature—the Happy Hour on Thursday afternoon—was a terrific way to wrap things up. The new format, whereby no competing sessions took place during the shortened 2-day trade show was a big hit with most all attendees, as there was really no “down time” compared to past shows (where exhibitors likened Saturdays to a “ghost town”). It didn’t hurt that the show floor was long and narrow, concentrating foot traffic through the main aisle and adding to the appearance of a packed room. Another factor contributing to this appearance was that many exhibitors rented smaller booth space than previous years, evidenced by the total booth space area of 204,300 square feet rented this year compared to 257,900 square feet in New Orleans (and over 300,000 in Orlando). The reality of it, though, told a slightly less optimistic story. Some preliminary numbers show that attendance was around 16,156 versus 17,151 in New Orleans last year (another “down” year), and the all-time high of 25,737 in Orlando in 2008. Around 7,000 “qualified buyers” attended this show—almost identical to last year, but down over 3,000 from 2008; and 665 exhibitors were on hand this year compared to 765 in 2008—a significant 13% drop off. But enough about that.

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The General Sessions and Special Events were a big hit, featuring such renowned presenters as Dr. Brian Little—part scholar, part stand-up comic, and Chris Gardner, best-selling author of *The Pursuit of Happyness* and the subject of the Will Smith film by the same title. At the Annual Meeting, held on the 12th, the elections were conducted, and James R. Fitzroy, CGCS was named our president for 2010. Filling out the executive committee were Robert Randquist, CGCS for vice president and Sanford G. Queen for secretary/treasurer. As for the educational portion of the conference, MAGCS was represented quite well, with **Chuck Anfield, CGCS, Dr. Bruce Branham, John Ekstrom, Jon Jennings, CGCS, Erwin McKone, Bruce Williams, CGCS** and **Tommy Witt, CGCS** sharing their expertise in an array of topics. But enough about that.

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The main event of the week—the can’t miss event—was the MAGCS Hospitality Reception held at the Solamar Hotel on Wednesday evening. This year’s rendition differed slightly from years past, with the event taking place on an outdoor terrace high above the streets of San Diego. Wow! HUGE kudos to **Luke Cella** and **Sharon Riesenbeck** on making all the arrangements (each of whom selflessly credits the other). The food, drink, and overall ambience were superior. And our members continued with their generous giving, adding over \$1,800 more dollars to the MAGCS Scholarship Fund through the raffle tickets sold at the door. We thank the volunteers who helped at check-in, Sharon and Luke, and our totally awesome sponsors for their part in the huge success of this year’s reception. When you have the opportunity, please thank the following 2010 Golden Tee Sponsors for their generosity:

- Ryder Cup Club: **Arthur Clesen, Inc., BASF, Bayer Environmental Science, Nels J. Johnson Tree Experts, Inc., and Syngenta.**
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- Par Club: **Aquatrols, BTSI, DuPont Professional Products, Great Lakes Turf, LLC, Growing Solutions, Harris Golf Cars, Hollembeak Construction, Inc., Jacobson Golf Course Design, Inc., Layne-Western, Pendleton Turf Supply, Phoenix Environmental Care, Prime Turf, Riverwalls Ltd., ROJ Turf Equipment, Tyler Enterprises, and XGD Systems.**



(continued on next page)



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RYDER CUP



HOLE IN ONE



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TRIBUTE

Sam Mackenzie, CGCS, Olympia Fields CC

Farewell to a Friend

The Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents lost a twenty-eight year member on January 16th of this year. Gary Galecki was the longtime Golf Course Superintendent at Ridge Country Club on Chicago's south side. More importantly, he was a fine husband, father and brother to his family as well as good friend to the many people who knew him.

Gary lived his entire life in La Grange, Illinois. He was the fifth of six children to Ed and Joan Galecki. His father was a carpenter and his mother worked as an administrative clerk. Together they raised their family in a house his father built on Brianard Avenue, just across the street from La Grange Country Club (LCC). For most of his life Gary didn't stray far from that address; in fact, on the day he passed away, he lived just two blocks east of his childhood home.

While growing up, Gary got his first taste of golf by caddying and then working on the grounds crew at LCC. At age 15, during the 1974 U.S. Women's Open held at LCC, Gary had the opportunity to caddy for Sandra Palmer. He enjoyed the experience but described it as "a tough loop", as Palmer did not win.

Gary attended St. Cletus and then Lyons Township High School (LT). By many accounts he was an excellent athlete playing both baseball and golf.

A life long friend, Mike Scheer remembered Gary, "as a four year letterman in golf at LT, always ranking among the top three on the team." In college Gary was a walk on for the Utah State golf team.

When college in Utah wasn't the answer, he came home and started working at Timber Trails Golf Course for Don Hoffman. One of his first jobs was night waterman. He learned golf maintenance from the ground up and by the time he left he was one of Don's assistants. He went on to attend Rutgers University and graduated from their turf program in 1983.

While at Timber Trails, Gary met his wife of nearly 30 years, Grace. She worked as a starter at the club. They have two children, Josh and Jenna. Both of them were excellent



athletes in their own right - Joshua excelled in baseball, football and basketball, and Jenna was an excellent gymnast. Like most of us, Gary was proud and supportive of his children's endeavors. Whenever he and I would talk, our conversations eventually centered on the kids. He was so proud of their accomplishments on and off their respective fields of play.

Gary's pride was on full display this past fall when Josh and Glen (Gary's older brother), ran in the Chicago Marathon. They ran to raise money for cancer research and to support Gary. Even on a cold October day and as sick as he was, Gary was determined to be there to catch a glimpse of his son and brother crossing the finish line. The story has it that the 27 year old Josh had a slightly longer day than his 61-year old uncle. Glen said "Josh started the race in the group in front of me but somewhere along the way I passed him and I put my name on the finish line first."

However, Glen told me that he spent the rest of the day recovering in his hotel room with Gary while Josh recovered from the race in a bar with his girlfriend. Sounds like Josh may have had the last laugh. At any rate, it was a great day for the Galecki's.

In the spring of 1983 Gary became Bob Maibusch's assistant and spent five years at the Hinsdale Golf Club. According to Bob, Gary started just a few months after he did and "they learned the course together, on the job." Bob added, "Gary worked his ass off in those early years and he was one of my best assistants."

In 1988 Ridge Country Club hired Gary as their Golf Course Superintendent. It was the start of a 21-year run at the south side club. The club sits at 103rd and California on only 97 acres



Josh, Grace, Gary and Jenna Galecki.

and plays just 6224 yards. Gary spent those years shaping the grounds into one of the most beautifully manicured and wonderfully challenging golf courses you might play. My recollection is that he rebuilt the bunkers twice, built countless tees, created a short game area and added a new irrigation system. His last Grounds Chairman Joe Ryan added, "no one has ever done more with 100 acres than Gary." Gary's flowers became legendary. He had a tremendous ability to combine annuals and perennials to create some of the most stunningly beautiful flower and landscape beds.

While it was difficult for him to get around during the last year Gary never stopped going to work. The members at Ridge respected and cared for Gary a great deal. Mr. Ryan explained, "In my 24 years at Ridge, there was no doubt in my mind whose golf course it really was. It wasn't the member's course, it was Gary's. During my two years as President I never questioned his decisions, he was our expert."

I met Gary at Butler National in the spring of 1982 where we both were doing our internships for Oscar Miles. His easy going personality and quiet sense of humor were easy to like. We became friends almost immediately. It's funny how life takes

you down a path and something seemingly as small as a friendship can have such a profound impact on your life. Eventually he and Grace would introduce me to Grace's sister Sally, whom I would marry and have two sons with. That probably wouldn't have happened had I not met Gary.

Over a lifetime we meet all sorts of folks, some good and some not so good. Gary truly was one of the good ones. As most who knew him well would confirm, he was a kind and generous person who gave his friendship easily. I've always felt lucky to have counted him as one of my friends. I know my life is made better by knowing him and hopefully in some small measure I returned the same in kind.

During the coming months, especially as we get into the golf season, I will think of him when something out of the ordinary pops up. He was a close confidant and we would call each other with our problems. He won't be there this time to listen to me whine about a dilemma on the course or complain about the weather. I take some comfort in knowing he doesn't have to worry about such mundane things anymore, but I also know that will be the day I will truly miss him the most. **-OC**



Gary and his crew from Ridge CC.



*Gary, far left in his early days at Hinsdale Golf Club.
Below, Gary's famed flowers outside Ridge CC.*



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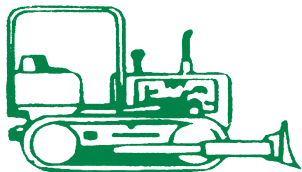
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