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FRONT COVER

A rafter of turkeys take a stroll on the course ending the golf season and before the season opens on them.
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.

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.

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ON COURSE WITH THE PRESIDENT
Dan Sterr, Stonebridge Country Club



Parting Words from the President

This year has been one for the record books in many different ways. Mother Nature delivered us another tough one and reminded us of who is in control. Weather wise, it seemed like a year of extremes: It started in February with the blizzard followed by a cold damp spring. It reached 90° the first week of June trailed by heavy rains and windstorms. High heat and humidity came next with little relief in sight, some even recorded a record rainfall for a single day, and this was still July. At last, August and September arrived and seemed to be somewhat more normal. I hope this is not the "new normal" of golf everyone is talking about. Most thought there was no way 2011 could be worse than 2010, but after experiencing 2011, it came out on top as wickeder. Some of the windstorms and record rainfall were hit or miss, but all experienced the heat and humidity that created the long days that started earlier in the season and the impacts of a stalled economy. All this, coupled with a tough previous year where some turf recovery may have been hampered by a poor fall in 2010 made 2011, in many people's memory more difficult. There was more than one seasoned superintendent that told me 2011 was the toughest year they have ever experienced. Looking back at the season of 2011, we all have something to talk about.

Years ago, a person in the golf business told me the golf season is like a three day holiday weekend. They explained that Friday is Memorial Day weekend, Saturday is the 4th of July, and Sunday is Labor Day. How true this analogy is. By Memorial Day, we have our staffs back at peak levels, most of the training is done, the operation is in full swing and most members and clientele are back in the game. How many of us look forward to the Labor Day weekend? Daytime temperatures are moderating and nighttime temperatures are beginning to cool. It is a great feeling to hit that weekend, knowing aerification is just around the corner and after that, the first frost will take care of the annuals. Soon leaves are falling, and you are thinking about blowing out the irrigation system, winter fungicide applications and the golf season is coming to an end. For most, it is the thunderstorms, the heat and humidity and the long days that linger around the 4th of July that make us welcome the fall. It is a funny business, we are in, and most of what we do, all of what we do, is tied to the weather, and sometimes there is not much we can do about it. As a wise old Superintendent once said, if you can make it to August 15th without losing any turf, you have made it through another year. How true that is.

Another sort of record/recognition needs to go out to a couple of Superintendents from the Midwest. Paul Voykin, longtime Superintendent at Briarwood Country Club was inducted into the Illinois Golf Hall of Fame in October. I had the pleasure of attending his ceremony, and can assure you Paul made all of us honored and proud to be part of the Midwest.

Congratulations Paul. Tim Anderson, CGCS, MG from Naperville Country Club was awarded GCSAA's Leo Feser Award for the best Superintendent written article in GCM, "Shoot The Elephants First". Most of you have read the article (in *On Course*) and if you have not, make sure you do. It is excellent. Congratulations Tim. Congratulations also go out to Scott Pavalko and his staff at Cog Hill. From all accounts, the golf course was in excellent condition for the BMW Championship. Commendations are due to you and your staff for producing such excellent playing conditions during one of the most difficult growing seasons in history. Congratulations Scott. These accomplishments speak volumes to the talent, dedication and hard work of the members of MAGCS, you all should be proud.

Finally I would like to say it has been an honor and a pleasure to serve as President of MAGCS this past year. I remember the first board meeting I attended in 2005, and Tim Anderson pointing out jokingly "the nine years go by really fast". Well Tim, it has not been nine years, but I can honestly say that it has gone fast. And when things go by fast, it usually means you have enjoyed what you have been doing. I would also like to thank all the current board members and committee members for the time and effort you have put into MAGCS. All have done a great job in running MAGCS and you will continue to do so in the future. Finally, a big thank you to Luke Cella for doing such a great job of running the day-to-day activities of the Association, he makes being on the Board of Directors and part of the Association a pleasure. **-OC**



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FEATURE I

Dave Radaj, CGCS, Green Acres Country Club



Friend of the Wee One, Friend to All

For those of you reading this who are already friends of the Wee One Foundation, I extend my sincere gratitude and thanks for all you have contributed. I am continually amazed with the individuals who step up without being asked and give. They run fundraisers, host golf outings, and open their wallets on behalf of the Wee One Foundation to help a friend in need. For those of you who are not yet aware of the Wee One, or who need a better understanding of what it is all about, please read on.

The Wee One Foundation was started by a group of people that had the great fortune to know Wayne Otto, CGCS. Wayne was a man who never met a stranger. Whether you were in his presence for the first time or the thousandth time, you immediately felt at ease. His humble demeanor radiated kindness and warmth. He made you feel secure no matter what was happening in your life. I remember, when starting out as a Superintendent, feeling overwhelmed by the usual heat pressures, disease pressures, or pressures of life. I would be at a meeting or gathering and so would Wayne. He would instantly bring me back from the edge. After the conversation ended, I would realize that we had barely touched on my turf issues. He was more interested in me than my grass. I always left feeling as if I could conquer anything that came my way.

It is in this image that the Wee One Foundation was formed and continues to operate. Like Wayne, the Wee One is here as a comforting feeling, knowing a friend has your back.

Wee One carries out this mission by assisting golf course management professionals or their dependents who have incurred overwhelming medical expenses and are without comprehensive insurance or adequate financial resources.

To date, the Wee One has dispersed \$450,000 to people in 17 different states. In one regard, I am proud of these numbers; and in another regard I am disappointed. I am disappointed because the funds are from a rather small group. The group of Wee One members and contributors is made up of both individuals and businesses. I'm not going to list names, because this isn't about recognition or what's in it for them. I hope that my family and your family are never in the position to need assistance. True friendship is giving of yourself, with no expectation of being repaid.

The Wee One Foundation is not just for Wisconsin or Illinois Superintendents. We are here for all our fellow golf course management professionals no matter where they

practice this great profession. This includes our friends in the business of providing us with the tools to keep our golf courses in outstanding condition. Wee One is proud to have extended help to numerous Superintendents (active and retired), Assistant Superintendents, and Sales Representatives over the years. Out of respect for privacy, the names and conditions of the recipients aren't made public. What I can do, is share a few notes we've received. The following are examples of how your financial support can make all the difference.

To the Wee One Board of Directors,

I would like to begin by saying thank you, however that just doesn't seem like enough. I recently received a check from your organization to help with my medical expenses incurred from my recent fight with cancer. I can not express in words how grateful my family and I are. I was shocked to find out that the first superintendent and assistant were the ones who submitted my information to you. I am truly blessed to work in the golf industry and be surrounded by such wonderful colleagues. Once again, I would like to say thank you to all your members and corporate partners. The organization you have created is second to none. If there is ever anything I can do to help please let me know."

Dear Wee One Foundation:


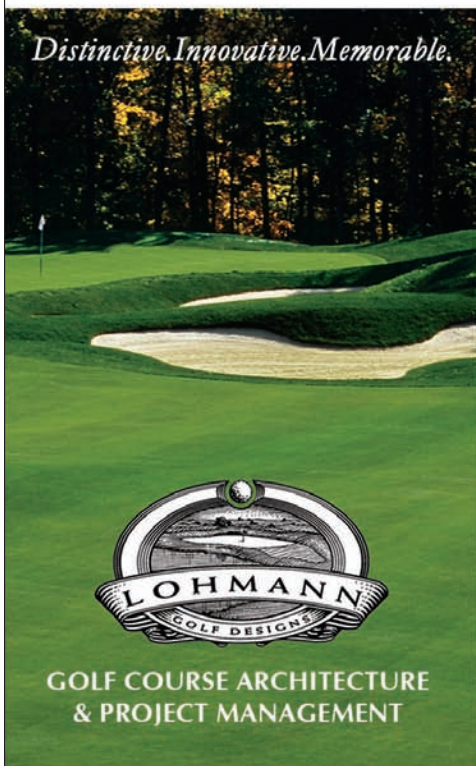
"I have always been extremely proud of the profession I chose but never more so than the day Rick came to my house. I am not afraid to admit I wept heavily that day and find myself letting go even now as I write this. God has blessed me in so many ways and your foundation is but one of the better blessings bestowed upon my family and me. What more could one man want or need?"

(continued on page 7)

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The largest concern we have is whether we can meet the needs of all who come calling. We make a living in a unique community that is about sharing knowledge, equipment, and camaraderie. By becoming a friend of The Wee One Foundation you can assist the people in this community when they need you most.

Every September many friends meet in Sheboygan Wisconsin to celebrate Wayne's love of golf and its people. We golf, drink beer, eat tacos and brats while telling tales of the past season and solving everyone's turf problems. The most important part of the day is that we come together in his memory and carry on in his spirit of friendship. This can't miss day is the original but not the only fundraiser. Many other states have started fundraising on behalf of the Wee One Foundation and the Midwest is no exception. The MAGCS has raised over \$70,000 to benefit the Wee One's work and has planned another event in January of 2012. I hope you are able to attend. Furthermore, I understand that the economy stinks and money is tighter than ever at work and home. Please take a look at something in your life that you spend \$75, \$100, \$200, or whatever amount on and seriously consider using it to help out a friend.

Wayne was the first friend of the Wee One. We hope you will become the next.

Visit <http://weeone.org> and become a friend TODAY! -OC

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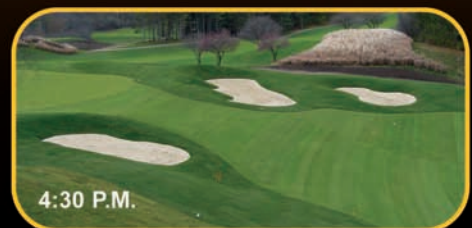
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What is GO TO 2040?

GO TO 2040 is a comprehensive plan for the future of a 7 county area surrounding Chicago. It provides a framework for all aspects of development in the region with the goal being to maintain the same quality of life that is now enjoyed by residents while still allowing for an increase in population of some 2 million people. The primary areas addressed are Livable Communities, Human Capital, Efficient Governance, Regional Mobility, and Context and Best Practice. It is a vast amount of information pulled together and used to create a framework for future sustainable, and environmentally responsible development. A large portion of the document is dedicated to the environment, including water use.

(<http://www.cmap.illinois.gov/2040/download-the-full-plan>)

Why was it created and who created it?

GO TO 2040 was created in response to the Regional Planning Act passed by the Illinois General Assembly in 2005. It specified that a planning body be formed by representatives of the 7 counties in the region surrounding Chicago. This planning body was tasked with creating “coordinated strategies that help the region’s 284 communities address transportation, housing, economic development, open space, the environment, and other quality-of-life issues.” The Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) is the result of this Act (www.cmap.illinois.gov).

What is the structure of the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning?

CMAP is composed of a board, a legislative planning committee at the policy level, and a citizen’s advisory committee as well as a council of mayors at the advisory level. Much of the research is done by state funded University agencies.

Where can I see the data that this plan is based upon?

www.metropulsechicago.org is an information clearing-house created by CMAP. It is a simple graphic tool that allows you to choose different inputs after which it creates a graph based upon your selections. It is an excellent site to see the high level data that creates the basis for the reports created by CMAP.

Is it law?

GO TO 2040 was created because the general assembly mandated that it be created. The plan itself does not have the force of law. All of the precepts of the plan have been created with the idea that they can easily be adopted into law

by local municipalities. For example within the water portion of the plan a sample ordinance was created that provides a framework that can easily be adopted, or adapted to the situation within an individual municipality. A copy of the Model Water Use Conservation Ordinance can be found at www.cmap.illinois.gov/water-2050.

It also provides recommendations to state lawmakers as to how to fund the programs involved, how to approach future planning, even ideas for creating better government. How the document becomes law is largely up to the individual counties and municipalities in the area.

Why does it matter to the golf industry?

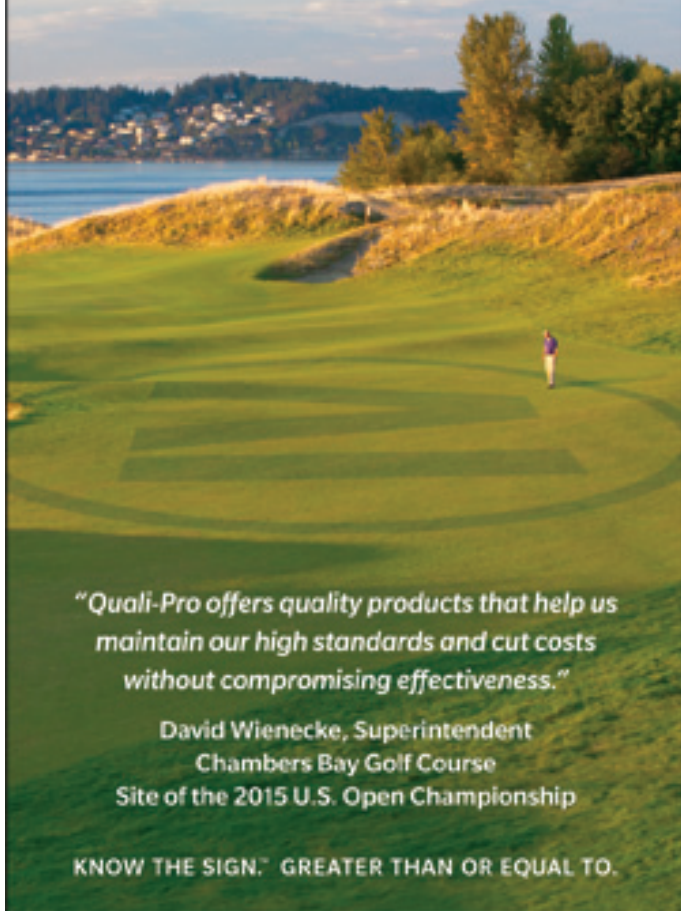
One of the main areas of concern within the plan is livable communities, and within that the environment. The planners have identified water, and open space as two crucial factors in maintaining our current standard of living. Golf courses are unique in their ability to directly confront many of the issues confronted by GO TO 2040. Golf courses can be part of storm water detention, permeable landscaping, urban forestry, and water and energy savings. As an industry that is often viewed as a major water user we need to be aware of any plan which has the potential to restrict access to water. The conversations created by a document like this one allow the golf industry to show the many ways that we can contribute to the area.

Should the local golf industry be concerned about this plan?

There is surprisingly little mention of the golf industry within the plan. The plan spends a lot of time presenting data that has been gathered over the last 10 years on

(continued on page 11)

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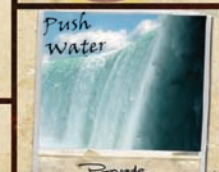
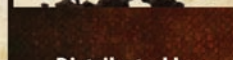
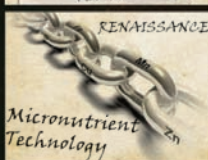
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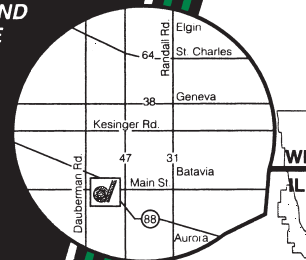
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