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APRIL 2012 Volume 65 No. 12



This picture was snapped of eastern skyline of Las Vegas before the sun comes up while testing out the camera gear for the day.

FRONT COVER

2012 Midwest Hospitality Reception, Las Vegas Nevada.
Thanks to our Golden Tee Sponsors and all in attendance for a great night.
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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DIRECTOR'S COLUMN

Ed Braunsky, CGCS, Geneva Golf Club

The Future is Built on our Past



MAGCS recently conducted its annual Past Presidents' Meeting and it got me thinking...as most of you know by now this fine association recently turned 85! The golf course superintendents in this area of the country have been very blessed to have one of the premier superintendent associations in the land! A great debt of gratitude is owed to the many who have gone before us.

I thought I would relive a little more than 30 years of my own memories of the MAGCS.

Monthly Meetings

I often heard stories about the meetings going until the wee hours of the morning. Many times guys would not get home until well past midnight, stopping off for breakfast just to be sure not to get home "too early". Maybe that's why the tales of guys ending up in Iowa (Carl) may not have been that far-fetched!

John Stephenson would accompany Albie (Albie Staudt 45 years at Geneva Golf Club) and I to meetings. John had this great knack of falling a sleep during the education part of the meeting (turned out John was diabetic and never knew till later in life). You could also tell the menu for the day due to the fact that it would be on John's shirt! I miss you John. Speaking of Albie, who can forget "Mr. President I'd like to make a motion we dispense with the minutes of the previous meeting".

Long-time guy Bill Kraft always wore a shirt and tie to every meeting. He wore it even while on the links. Ray Gerber is still walking to the front of the room somewhere trying to take a picture! Greatest line at a monthly meeting...while putting on a par three at Mt. Prospect, Lynn Wesson yells out to a chatty Kathy named Wally Fuchs, "Hey Wally is my putting bothering your talking". I still have Toro tees if anyone needs some.

Hospitality, Parties and More

Christmas Parties at Turf Products...I still smell like that warehouse (SP and fresh floor paint). Every year Adolph Bertucci would have his Christmas bash at Lakeshore. We would make the drive in from Mayberry (Geneva), have a few drinks, some chow, and then head back home. I never saw so many coats piled up on tables in Adolph's old shop along with several police and firemen and VIPs from around the hood. Open houses at Illinois Lawn...always had great seafood!

(continued on next page)





The Birth of the Hospitality Room

Back in the day Albie and Bob Breen and Art Clesen would haul booze up to the a couple of adjoining rooms in suitcases. Then the boys would babysit later in the evening for the likes of Bavier and Fischer.

Miscellaneous

The Association's Telephone & Telegraph operator was Pete Vandercook at Illinois Lawn. Pete knew the buzz of the association. If someone was sick or had passed on, Pete knew and made sure that those who needed to know did. I remember having Chris Johnson come out to demonstrate a Jake greensmower. He confidently unloaded the machine and proceeded to head out to our practice green. This hotshot started mowing but there was one problem. He forgot to remove the transport wheels! I couldn't run to the phone quick enough to call Pete. It was all over Chicagoland in a matter of minutes. Now they call that Facebook.

Ken Zanzig's poems.

Bruce Williams' President's picture in the Bullsheet back in 1981: He looked like an adult film star.

Julie Albaugh calling the stimpmeter a "rectal thermometer".

It's all in a Name

Dave "Legs" Louttit, Wayne "Kinky" Trometer, Johnny Lebs, Jerry Crist, Frank Krueger, Ben Kronn, Jim Latham, Howard Baerwald, Warren Bidwell, Jerry Adank, Jackie Butler, Ed Wollenberg, Cecil Kerr, Dr. Daniel, Herb Graffis, Roscoe Randall, John Ebel.

Past Executive Secretaries: Penny Meyer, Joan Minnis, George Minnis.

I know I missed a lot of names and memories but hopefully you will get a chuckle or a smile out of some of the things I listed.

Here are a few more names: Dave Braasch, Scott Witte, Joel Purpur, Brain Bossert, Tony Kalina, Tim Anderson, Luke Strojny, Fred Behnke, Don Ferreri, Mike Bavier, Phil Zienert, Dan Sterr, Ed Fischer, Bob Maibusch, Kevin DeRoo, Ed Braunsky, Luke Cella, and Bob Kohlstedt. All of the above participated at the Past Presidents Council meeting held at the Geneva Golf Club.

The theme of the meeting was the present state of the MAGCS. It is still outstanding shape thanks to these men and those that came before them. -OC

"April Showers"

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- Kenneth R. Zanzig



FEATURE I

Scott White, *Mauh-Nah-Tee-See Golf Club*



Being a Super Dad

The field manual all Superintendents should receive before leaving the hospital

As I sat down to write my article for this month's On Course, I started to review my list of topics, comparing them to all the articles we're accustomed to seeing in our local and national trade publications. Every month we read great articles on managing your golf course, career, employees, as well as the articles on cutting edge research or technology. For those of you who don't know me, I've been the Superintendent of a small, private country club in Rockford for the past five years. For the most part, I feel we do an amazing job here with the limited resources we have. Are we revolutionizing the industry by topdressing fairways or using the newest electric mower? Absolutely not, but we are improving the golf course every year and providing great playing conditions for our members. So I asked myself what possible earth shattering piece of information I could offer the membership in this article. Then it struck me, how about balancing being a Superintendent and a father? Although I feel I'm a great superintendent, I believe I'm becoming a pretty good father too, after seven years of experience. The real fun comes when you need to manage these two responsibilities at the same time.

Back in 2004, when my wife was pregnant, I may have been the most paranoid father-to-be. I knew how to keep grass alive at .125 of an inch, but keeping a baby alive – seriously, this was not for me. I finally calmed down with some help from my wife and by using the idea of bringing the basic principles of turf to childcare. Feed it, water it, love it, and clean it up when it gets messy, right? Heck, I have a turf degree. I can do anything. Why not raise a kid, too? Unfortunately, what doesn't come with the job is a simple set of instructions. I probably would have skipped the manual anyway and winged it, but things can go especially wrong when you bring little ones to the golf course. When you finish reading this article, if you still need advice, please seek a professional. Consult someone like Brad Anderson on the north side. He has about a dozen kids and grandkids. God bless him; Brad must



be very patient and have a high tolerance for pain.

Don't be afraid to bring your kids to work. Situations differ; make sure you understand and operate within your club or golf course rules. Check with your superiors first if you have any questions. At the Mauh-Nah-Tee-See Club, I'm lucky, because my family is seen as a part of the club and interaction is encouraged. For me, being a Superintendent isn't just a job, it's a way of life, and my family is a huge part of it. Some Superintendents can completely separate work and home, which is fine. I choose to involve my family because, frankly, I couldn't imagine it any other way. Please don't think my son, Jackson, is there all the time or on the payroll. I don't bring him to the golf course every week, but usually every other week during the season. So I thought I would share a few of the following lessons and ideas about kids at work.

(continued on next page)

Making Time

1. I try to limit the time I bring Jackson to the golf course to afterhours when crew is gone or on Sunday mornings while I'm changing cups. I avoid Wednesday (men's day) unless it's late into the evening. I also try to bring him only when I know I have time to spend with him. Our job is stressful enough. If you can't spend time with them, it's not going to be fun for either of you.
2. Our favorite time is late evening golf course tours in the cart. It's priceless and probably the one thing he will always remember.

I think it's important to establish two basic rules from day 1 and make no exceptions

Rule #1 - We have the polo law written in stone for a professional appearance and khakis if we plan to go into the clubhouse or if members are going to see us on the golf course.

Rule #2 - We're quiet, calm, and no joking around or craziness.

At the Shop

1. Set the ground rules first and early, designate the areas where your child can be. Shop safety is important. I allow Jackson in the office and break room, only, unless he's with me.


2. Bring some fun toys to pass the time, but no matter what we bring, the dry erase board, maps, and desk calendar seem to be a hit at my shop.
3. Keep the irrigation computer and radios off limits.
4. Always keep the chemical and fertilizer off limits and locked.
5. Sand piles – years ago my Superintendent, Brian Yeager, allowed his kids to play for hours in the indoor, top-dressing sand pile. It was a great place for them, after the crew had gone for the day
6. Equipment is also off limits, unless you are with your child. Injuries can happen and last thing you need is a trip to the urgent care down the street

Around the Clubhouse


1. Establish a quiet rule, no running, and always use manners.
2. Try to limit or avoid interaction with members. The golf shop is a great place to practice addressing adults and handshaking while making eye contact with the Golf Professional and the staff.

On the Range

1. When practicing with your child on the range, always keep him/her in the hitting bay and in front of you. You can see them and avoid the chance of a backswing meeting a forehead.




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On the Course

1. Demonstrate and use proper golf etiquette at all times; it's never too early to start instilling the key principles.
2. Keep riding in a cart as a privilege, and do not play around while driving.
3. Avoid parking the cart on slopes. Remember to remove the key if your child stays in the cart.
4. Teach your child about all aspects of the golf course and what you do.
5. Teach your child how to walk without dragging his/her feet on the putting surfaces and the importance of properly raking footprints out of a bunker.

Playing Golf

1. Keep the game fun. There's a time for instruction and a time for fun. You will have many years to turn them into the next Tiger or Rory. They will naturally gravitate to the game. The last thing you want is for them to hate playing. Give them time to grow into the game, before you start talking about college scholarships.
2. Teach them the etiquette: how to pick up their feet, how not to swing a club on the putting green, flag placement, marking the ball, and retrieving the ball from the cup.
3. Play less golf: play from the forward tees or junior tees with them, and play fewer holes. It's a great way to speed up the game and work on your short game at the same time.
4. Avoid demonstrating any anger, frustration, or club throwing. Warning! Your child becomes a mini version of you.
5. Point out any wildlife, and teach them to be good stewards as you play.

Other:

1. **Starting point** – If you are nervous about taking your child onto the golf course at an early age, try a local public course's putting green. At the age of two, I used to take Jackson over to Tamarack and practice putting. You'll be surprised. Your child will act better than you think.
2. **Snowplowing** – Don't Do It! Do not take your kids with you to snow plow, even if it's just a parking lot. I always looked forward to the day I could take Jackson along with me. Then I heard a horrifying story from Northwest Indiana, about a Lawn care Supervisor's son killed in an accident while plowing in an empty parking lot. I'll spare you the details; trust me don't do it.
3. **The PGA** – every year I schedule a day to attend a local golf event with Jackson, during a practice round. It's a great way to get away from the golf



4. course, see the pros, and get a few autographs. The pros are more accessible, and often there are kid-friendly activities to participate in. Last year it was the BMW. This July we will be heading to the Women's U.S. Open at Blackwolf Run, in Kohler, Wisconsin. Oh, and I almost forgot, with your GCSAA card, it's free.

(continued on next page)



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5. **Watching golf** – I always pull Jackson into the room during the end of a major golf event on TV or during a highlight on Sportcenter. The excitement and thrill of victory never gets old, no matter what age you are.
6. **Career Day** – Last year, in Jackson first grade class, I volunteered to be a guest at career day. I made a great power point presentation, threw in a few jokes, polished up my public speaking skills, and fielded some tough questions. What is my favorite color of golf ball? It was great to talk about the game we love and teach others about our job. The true highlight of my day was having a student, the son of a local golf professional, make it clear to me that his dad was my boss. It was a good laugh. If it wasn't for the local police officer having a gun, I think I would have been the favorite that day.

Your kids grow up fast. Memories made at the golf course are priceless, whether it's first par, always having a Fanta out of the soda machine, helping cut a cup, or having lunch inside the clubhouse. Sure, it's a little crazy balancing work and time with them at the golf course. You probably won't get as much work done while they are there, but it's worth it. We often get lost in our jobs, worrying about the smallest of details and spending long hours taking care of

the golf course. Our wives and children sacrifice so much for us during the season. This is a great way to get a little bit of that missed time back. Your wife will appreciate a break and a little peace and quiet. Anyone can buy one of those, *World's Greatest Dad*, T-shirts at Target and wear it, but there's more to earning the title. I still have a long way to go in becoming the Superintendent and father I aspire to be, but I am headed in the right direction. What better place to grow up than on a golf course with your dad? I would like to leave you with one other final thought. It's amazing how many skills we can mix between both jobs. While parenting, I learned that communicating with a green committee member and a five-year-old is, sometimes, almost the same. Sometimes, no matter how simply you explain it, they just don't understand. Good Luck. I hope you learned a thing or two. Although there are a lot of days I pull my hair out, I can't imagine life without my little assistant beside me. **-OC**



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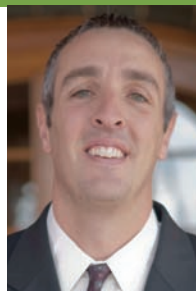
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FEATURE II

Dave Groelle, CGCS, Royal Melbourne Country Club



When Getting the Finger is a Good Thing

I thought that might get your attention, and quite possibly make you take a moment to read this five-minute article and change your life. There are probably many situations that are going through your head, right now, that involve getting the finger, but road rage and angry golfers are not what I had in mind. I'm talking about cancer, prostate cancer to be specific. Now don't stop reading! Just hear me out. It might save your life.

First of all, what is it and where does it occur? Well, prostate cancer forms in tissues of the prostate (a gland in the male reproductive system found below the bladder and in front of the rectum). It usually occurs in older men. I apologize if this article doesn't speak to the women in our organization, but it might help the men in their lives as well. Due to the fact that our profession is very male oriented, I thought this would be a great public service opportunity. And here is why:

The bad news

- In 2011 it was estimated that 240,890 men would be diagnosed with the disease and 33,720 would die.
- About 1 man in 6 will be diagnosed with prostate cancer in his lifetime.
- In the United States, prostate cancer is the second leading cause of cancer death in males, behind lung cancer. About 1 man in 36 will die from the disease.

The good news

- More than 2 million men in the United States who have been diagnosed are still alive today.
- Early detection saves lives!!

I hope after reading all that you are asking yourself: "How do I know if I should go see my doctor?"

Here are the facts:

- Screening should take place at age 50 for men who are at average risk of prostate cancer and are expected to live at least 10 more years.
- Screening should begin at age 45 for men at high risk of developing prostate cancer. This includes African-American men and men who have a first-degree relative (father, brother, or son) diagnosed

with prostate cancer at an early age (younger than age 65).

- Screening is recommended at age 40 for men at even higher risk (those with several first-degree relatives who had prostate cancer at an early age).
- Based on these criteria, those who want to be screened should be tested using the prostate specific antigen (PSA) blood test. The digital rectal exam (DRE) may also be done as a part of screening.
- If a man is unable to decide if testing is right for him, the screening decision can be made by conferring with a health care provider, who takes into account the patient's general health preferences and values.
- Men who have a PSA result of less than 2.5 ng/ml, may only need to be retested every two years.
- Screening should be done yearly for men whose PSA level is 2.5 ng/ml or higher.

So, basically, your family history determines the timing of your first exam. Another reason for having a screening done is the presence of any of the warning signs. However, keep in mind that warning signs don't always occur and aren't necessarily indicators of cancer. They can also be symptoms of other, noncancerous, conditions.

They are as follows:

- Blood appearing in the urine stream
- Smaller or weaker urine stream
- The urge to urinate frequently, but producing only small amounts
- Painful urination
- Inability to fully empty the bladder
- The uncontrolled dribbling of urine
- Difficulty beginning to urinate

(continued on page 10)

Once I decide to make an appointment to see my doctor, what are the tests that will be administered? How are they performed? This is where we need to set aside our bravado and just do it. The first exam is called a digital rectal exam (DRE). This is the “finger” I was referring to in the title. I’m guessing you’ve all heard about this one, so I don’t need to explain it. There are even commercials that joke about it. It’s the reason most men haven’t gone to see the doctor in the first place. In reality, it’s quick and painless. Is it uncomfortable? Yes. However, the information it provides could save your life. Just get over it, guys!

The second test is a blood test for prostate-specific antigen (PSA). PSA is a substance made by cells in the prostate gland (it is made by normal cells and cancer cells). PSA is most commonly found in semen, but a small amount is also found in the blood. Most healthy men have levels under 4 nanograms per milliliter (ng/mL) of blood. The chance of having prostate cancer goes up as the PSA level goes up.

When prostate cancer develops, the PSA level usually goes above 4. Still, a level below 4 does not mean that cancer isn’t present – about 15% of men with a PSA below 4 will show prostate cancer on biopsy. Men with a PSA level in the borderline range between 4 and 10, have about a 1 in 4 chance of having prostate cancer. If the PSA is more than 10, the chance of having prostate cancer is over 50%.


I realize there are no answers here. We are talking about cancer. My goal in writing this is to get men who are at risk to make an appointment with their doctor. We work in a world where we go to great lengths to take care of turfgrass. We apply all kinds of plant protectants to keep them healthy. Sometimes we send samples to turf labs hoping to find what ails it. Do the same for yourself, and get screened for prostate cancer. You can find more information on prostate cancer at the American Cancer Society website: www.cancer.org. **-OC**

Sources:

www.cancer.org


www.prostatecancerwarningsigns.org

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