

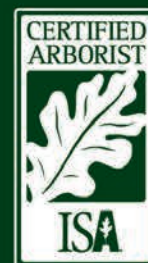


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Westmoreland Country Club flooding their fairways this fall in order to test the new course drainage system before winter.

PHOTO: Luke Cella

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Doug Davis

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11 Miles of Tile at Westmoreland

Luke Cella, CGCS



A very unique golf car is restored by MAGCS member Doug Davis. It was owned by another long time and now retired MAGCS member, Skip Willms

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DATES

2014 MIDWEST EVENTS

- 1/22/14 January Meeting & Wee One Fundraiser, Seven Bridges
- 2/5/14 Midwest Hospitality Reception, Orlando FL
- 02/14 Annual Assistant Winter Workshop, Lemont IL

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Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents (MAGCS) exists to promote professionalism and integrity, to provide networking, education and career enhancement opportunities to all members who facilitate the growth and enjoyment of golf.

On Course is published monthly with original member content. For advertising opportunities please call 630-243-7900.

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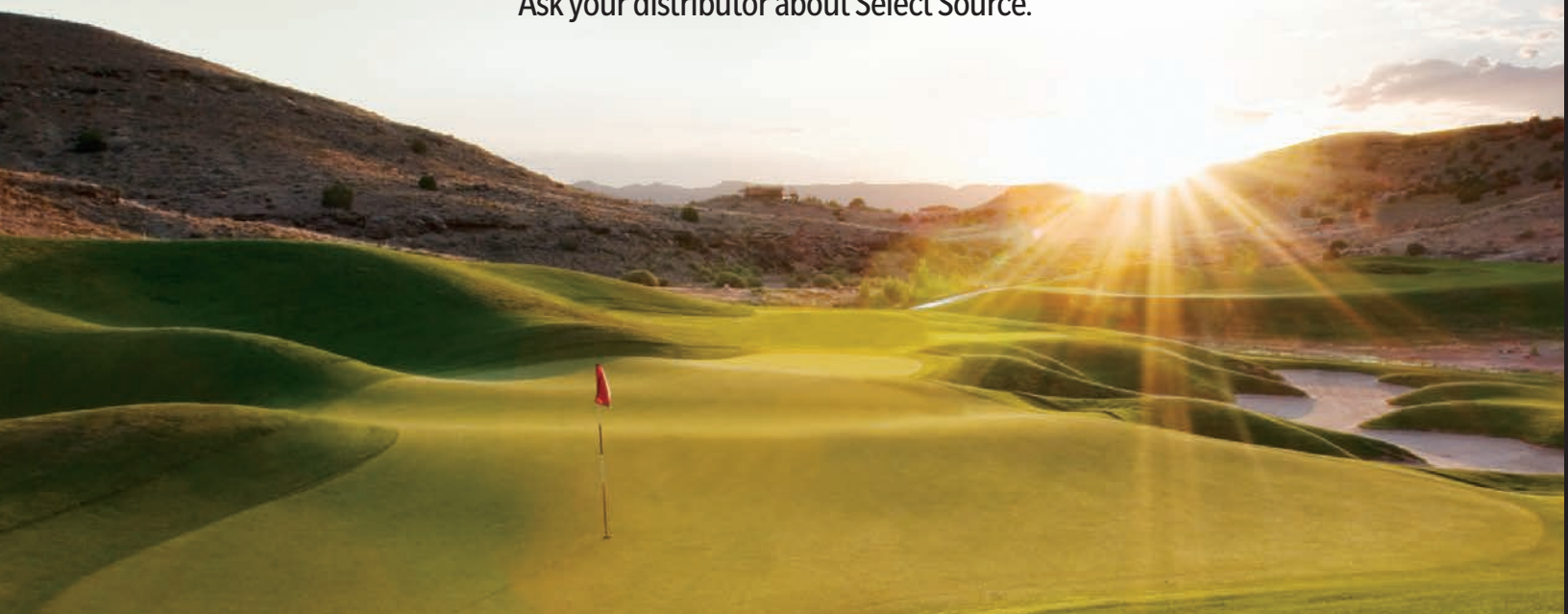
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Luke Cella
MAGCS
Executive Director

Summer Internships

I get asked several times a year if I know of any schools or programs that have interns that need to be placed. Sometimes, not always, I am wary of the question. Hiring an intern takes effort on the part of those doing the hiring.

You are making a commitment to continue the education of the intern. By definition, an intern is gaining practical experience through supervision and training. I become wary when I feel operations are looking for labor by someone that has an "interest in the industry" and therefore won't need much supervision or training. In actuality, this is quite the opposite of an intern. Those who truly want to impart their knowledge and experience on someone who wants to learn, keep reading – the industry needs you.

Some of you may recall the successful program launched by the First Tee utilizing members of the Midwest to educate and share the profession of green keeping with our youth last summer. It took place at Cog Hill and the Midwest Golf House for a day in late August. Young adults of the First Tee spent the day learning about golf course maintenance operations in the "Careers on Course" program. Based upon feedback from the attendees the day was fun and they found it to be interesting.

A few years ago the Illinois PGA started a program called GolfWorks Illinois. It was designed along the same lines as "Careers on Course" but developed as a program to expose young adults to the business side of the golf industry through an internship program during the summer.

GolfWorks Illinois is a vocational development program for Illinois high school and college students that promotes learning through hands-on work experience in the golf industry. Working together with local golf facilities and youth golf organizations, GolfWorks Illinois benefits participants in the following ways:

- Experiential Learning – A meaningful work experience via an 8-10 week internship that

Continued on page 7





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OVERHAULIN' Golf Car Style

Doug Davis, Flagg Creek Golf Course

I love old things. Old music, old movies, old cars. Oldies but goodies right? It wasn't until I got into the golf business that I knew or cared about motorized golf carts. Back in the early '70s memories of golf carts were of the Harley Davidson three-wheelers with a swivel steering arm, loud engine, and they ran and ran.

In 1987, Dennis (Skip) Willms (Onwentsia Golf Club) hired me fresh out of college to work as his assistant at the Racine Country Club in Wisconsin. While there I saw one of the oddest, oldest, most unique looking golf carts ever, a 1963 Cushman Golfster. This was Skip's personal cart.

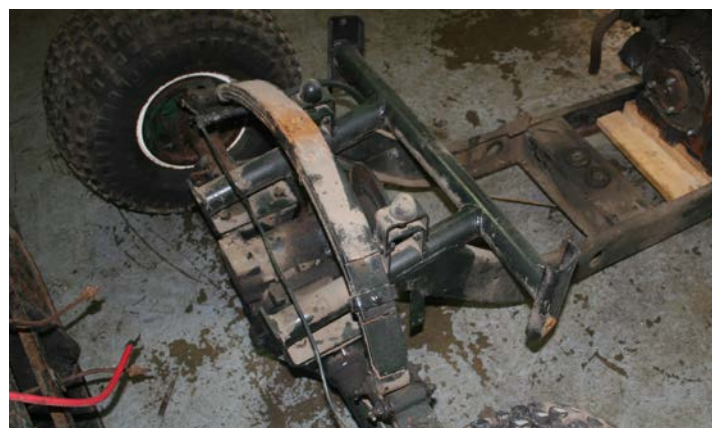


When I trailered the car from storage, it didn't seem to be in that bad of shape.

The Cushman Company was founded in Lincoln, Nebraska, in 1903. The more familiar Cushman Trucksters were produced from 1952 to 2002 and were used for everything from ice cream sales, mail delivery, police departments, mall and stadium maintenance to, of course, golf course maintenance. The Model 735 Golfster Golf Cart was produced from 1961 to 1964. It was built on much the same frame as a truckster, used an 18hp OMC

engine, and had one forward and one reverse gear. President Dwight D. Eisenhower bought a Cushman Golfster in 1963 and used it for many years in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, where he retired.

Fast forward to March 2011. I sent an email to Skip saying hello and asked him if he still had his old Golfster. He replied that he did still own the Golfster, but had not run it in over 20 yrs. He would be glad to sell it to me, for a very reasonable price. I drove up to Onwentsia. Tucked away in an incredibly large equipment storage facility, under two inches of dust and bird poo, sat the Golfster. We got it up onto my trailer, and I got it back home. After a thorough pressure washing, I surveyed what I was up against: missing parts, frozen parts, rotted tires, body damage, to name a few. I began the disassembly, and very soon the cart was broken down to a lot of individual this and that.



Once I started the disassembly, I started to find out the project was going to take a little more than I had anticipated.

Fortunately, there are still Cushman enthusiasts out there on the web who offered a wealth of resources, leads, information, parts, etc. I was lucky to get my hands on an original owner's manual and parts book. I decided that rather than re-build the old 18 hp OMC engine that came with the cart we would buy a Repower kit, a 20 hp Honda engine, which included a clutch adapter and wiring instructions for joining new with old. Also, since the Golfster uses a lot of the same internal parts as a Truckster, I was able to use a Truckster three-speed transmission. About this time the weather started getting warm. My "real job" was calling me, so the project got put on hold and sat all summer. During this time, though, I was able to search for and find other components that the cart needed. When it was all finished, I had found and purchased parts from seven different states. After everything was back together, it was time to begin body work. Sanding through layers of paint in three different colors was a chore. I didn't want to sandblast for fear of damage to the metal and fiberglass. After a lot of body work the cart received two coats of primer. I selected hot rod paint from House of Kolor called "Lapis Blue." The paint job turned out great. When the sun reflects on it, there are at least three different shades. We powder coated all the trim pieces, front/rear bumper, and seat bracket with a nice contrasting chrome color. (Actual chroming is really expensive!) Finally, I took the bench and back rest to an upholstery shop, and we worked up a design we thought would fit nicely with the "era" of the cart.

There is so much more involved in an overhaul than I could ever have imagined. I have to give a huge thanks to my Equipment Technician, Ed Horaceck. Without him the cart would still be in 300 pieces. Thanks also to Mark Johnson, for his guidance and the "parts" Golfster he shipped to me from South Florida, and to Blake Winters for his body work and painting prowess. Ernesto

Jimenez's talents with needle, thread, and vinyl upholstery were also essential.

Stop by my shop if you want to see this little piece of history up close and personal. I might even let you borrow the keys!



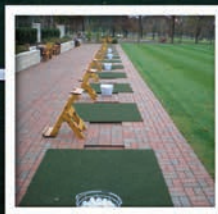
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- Service Learning – Promoting good citizenship and the goodwill of the game participants will take part in a golf-related community service project.
- Classroom Learning – Encouraging the attainment of higher education, high school and college participants alike can apply for financial assistance through the Illinois PGA Foundation's Scholarship Fund that includes awards for industry pursuits such as Professional Golf Management and Turfgrass Science as well as merit-based via a GolfWorks Illinois scholarship.



The Illinois PGA Foundation started GolfWorks Illinois in 2010 and was inspired by the success of several educational programs, including the New York Metropolitan Golf Foundation's Golfworks program.

In an effort to grow Illinois GolfWorks, the Midwest and the Illinois PGA are planning to work together in the coming years to create a viable program for our youth. We feel this program will benefit the industry in the long run and just as important benefit the youth who participate.

The idea is simple. Encourage and assist golf courses and clubs to hire interns for the summer to expose them to the industry. During this internship, the youth will work for a few weeks in each department within the golf course operation. From a management perspective, and a turf maintenance department perspective, we realize there are hurdles to overcome. Some of the obstacles may be the early starts, limited tasks depending on the age of the intern because of child labor laws, training someone for only a couple of weeks work and onsite supervision. However, we know we can make it work. There are jobs that can be done on the course that are meaningful and can inspire the next generation of golf course superintendents. It will take some work on our part to develop an experience that may be life changing.

Most of us are in the golf business because of exposure to it during our early years. When did you realize you wanted to make a career out of it? Illinois GolfWorks wants to be the answer to that question to the next generation of golf industry professionals.

Don't Miss the Midwest Hospitality Reception

The evening of:
Wednesday, February 5, 2014
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JANUARY 2014

Dates to Remember

January 7-8 – ITF Turf Conference 2014 at the Hyatt Lodge in Oak Brook, IL, Ronald McDonald host.

January 13-15 – 2014 Michigan Turfgrass Conference at the Kellogg Hotel and Conference Center on the campus of Michigan State University in East Lansing, MI.

January 14 – CAGCS 2014 Shop Tour. Details follow.

January 22 – 5th Annual MAGCS/Wee One Meeting/Fundraiser at Seven Bridges Golf Club, Don Ferreri and Dave Gelino hosts.

January 28-30 – Iowa Turfgrass Conference and Trade Show at the Downtown Des Moines Marriott. Go to www.iowagcsa.org for the details.

February 1-6 – 2014 Golf Industry Show in Orlando, FL.

February 5 – MAGCS Hospitality Reception at Miller's Ale House in Orlando, FL.

March 11 – Conserv FS' Tech Day at Pheasant Run Resort in St. Charles, IL, Dan Murray, CGCS host.

Happy New Year, and a big welcome to our new MAGCS members:

Jay Druhan, Class A, Palos Hills Golf Club
Matt Lohmann, Class E, Lohmann Golf Designs, Inc.
Andrew Narlow, Class C, Idlewild Country Club
Clark Rowles, Class E, Pendelton Turf Supply
Kyle Schwieter, Class C, Sunset Ridge Country Club

Congratulations to **Shane Conroy**, who has accepted a position with Spectrum Technologies. Shane was formerly assistant superintendent at Park Ridge Country Club, as well as our Class C Advisor and PMTCM (Permanent Midwest Turf Clinic Moderator). Good luck to you Shane!

If you know of someone who is interested in becoming a golf course equipment technician, Kishwaukee College has just the thing. This spring semester, Kish is offering a new class on Turf Equipment Maintenance that will cover proper operation and maintenance techniques dealing with turf equipment, including reel and bedknife grinding, basic welding, basic spray painting, and how to develop a complete equipment inventory for capital budgeting in a golf course environment. Classes will meet on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4:15 to 6:15 starting on January 14th and running through April 14th. Hurry and call **Pete Leuzinger** at 815-825-2086 ext. 2970 to sign up.



The Chicagoland Association of Golf Course Superintendents is holding its Annual Shop Tour this month on the 14th. Always a great way to get the crew (what crew you may have at this time of year) out of the shop for a day to see other maintenance facilities, this year will feature stops at Biltmore Country Club (**Brian Thomson**, CGCS), Hawthorn Woods Country Club (**Scott Hillyard**), and Wynstone Golf Club (**Ben McGargill**). Call Luke Cella to let him know you're attending.

Remember that thing you received in the mail last month? You know—the thing from MAGCS that said something about dues renewal having begun? If you haven't already done so, go ahead and dig it out of the pile on your desk and return it with your dues payment. You can also renew online, which is really easy. Thanks!

Another reminder—this month, on the 22nd, the 5th Annual Wee One

Fundraiser will take place in conjunction with our January monthly meeting at Seven Bridges Golf Club (**Don Ferreri** and **Dave Gelino** hosts). If you haven't signed up, get on that—it's a day not to be missed. The morning education will feature Dr. Thom (pronounced Tom) Nikolai from Michigan State University who will discuss the history of putting green maintenance along with the most up-to-date research and techniques utilized in the field. Doc Thom's presentations never disappoint. Following that, Mr. Timothy Eavenson, Attorney at Law will talk to us about how to defend ourselves when we get a job and how to protect ourselves if we lose our job. Following lunch, it's auction time, where you can find some great deals on all sorts of goods and services, with all of the proceeds going to the Wee One Foundation. Hope to see you there.

Condolences to the family and friends of **John Kiraly**, who passed away on December 17th. John was the father of **Pete Kiraly**, and had served as golf course superintendent for the Des Plaines Park District for 42 years. Rest in peace, sir.

What can you make with a pickle bucket, an old rotary blade, a piece of steel rod, a Mountain Dew can and some peanut butter? If you're **Vince "MacGyver" Dodge**, the answer is simple—you make a mouse trap. Just as effective as a shop cat, but no litter box to clean.



If you are heading to Orlando next month for the Show, be sure to take the opportunity to do something that could save your skin some day—GCSAA and the Sun Safe Tee Program are teaming up to offer free skin cancer screenings to everyone in attendance. Stop by booth #2279 and get screened—early detection is critical when dealing with this most prolific, most preventable, and most curable form of cancer.

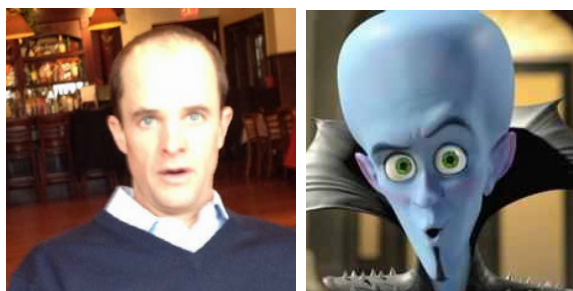
In this month's GOLF Magazine, one of our member courses was honored. Mistwood Golf Club in Romeoville (**Ben Kelnhofer** supt.) was awarded its "Best U.S. Renovation You Can Play" for 2013. The renovation by architect Ray Hearn took two years to complete, and was well worth the wait according to the review: "The result? Mission accomplished. Mistwood may have been young for a face-lift, but this beauty is ready for its close-up." Congratulations to Ben and Mistwood GC for this honor.

Q: What mysterious creature is rumored to be slithering around in **Rich Kensinger's** irrigation pond?

A: The Ken-Loch Ness Monster.

Michael Heustis is a smart guy. BUT...is he Mega Mind smart?? Or is it possible that they are one and the same?

MIDWEST Doppelgänger



How smart is Michael Heustis?

Congratulations to **Brian Bossert, CGCS**, Luke Cella, CGCS, and **Tim Scott, CGCS** on their successful recertification through GCSAA.

Good luck to **Mike Embree**, formerly of Acme Materials in Muscatine, Iowa who after 40 years on the job has retired to sunny Arizona. Many of us have gotten to know Mike over the years, and we wish him well.

After 34 years on the road, **Steve Stewart** (right) is moving inside. As of the first of the year, Steve has taken over as Reinders, Inc.'s Manager of Operations and Transportation. Congratulations, Steve!



Congratulations to **Matt Kregel** and **Erwin McKone**, who were selected as two of 22 golf course superintendents to participate in the Syngenta Business Institute in December. The program focuses on financial and human resources management, delegation and negotiation skills, effective communications techniques and managing generational differences.

Last month was a festive one for the MAGCS members who hopped on the Holiday Party Train. The South Side party was held at Chef Klaus Bier Stube in Frankfort on the 2nd, followed by the West Side gathering at Seven Bridges (Don Ferreri and Dave Gelino hosts) on the 5th. Closing things out was the North Side party on the 17th at Twin Peaks. All three events were well-attended and were a wonderful way for friends from both near and far to gather and toast the end of another season. Thank you to all who helped make these parties so successful. Pictures on page 13.