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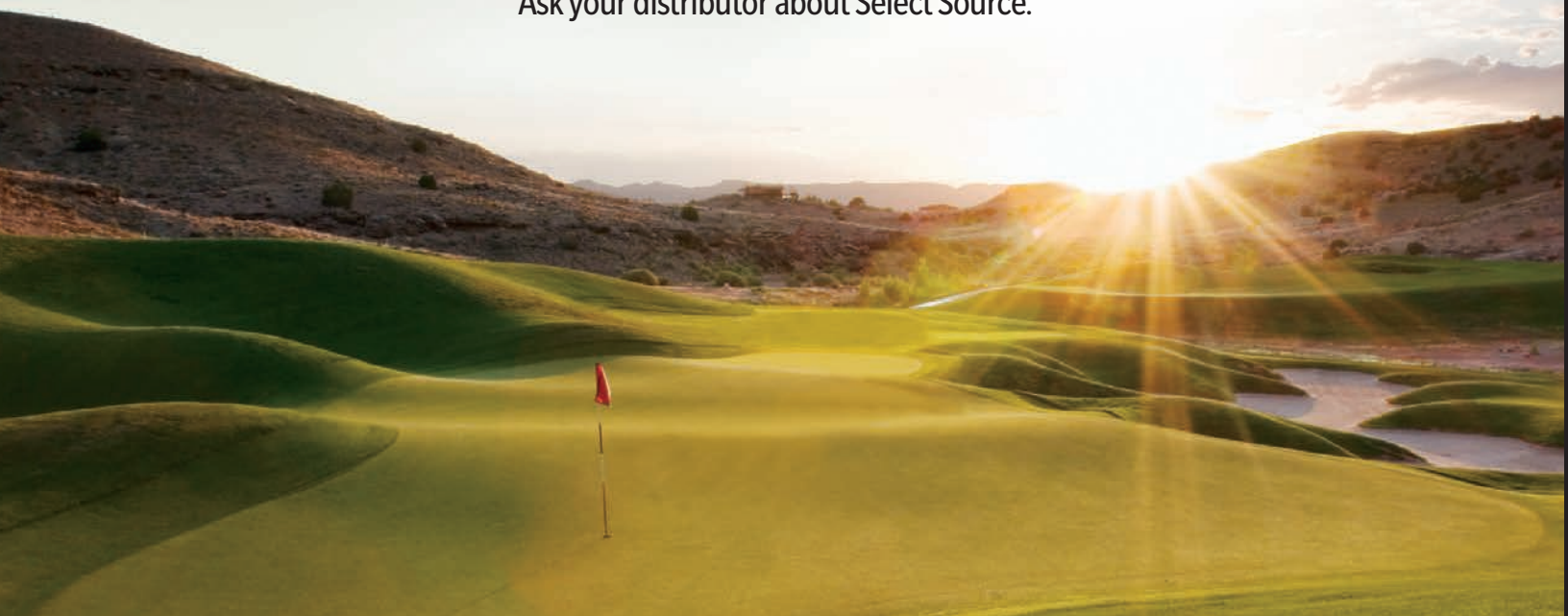
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front cover

As meteorological winter ends, the long range forecast still favors much colder temperatures. Much of talk among Midwest members is what shape will the turf be when we finally see a thaw?

PHOTO: Luke Cella

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Middle of Nowhere Streamsong

Chuck Barber



The Midwest Hospitality Reception took place in conjunction with the Golf Industry Show. Over 350 members and guests enjoyed an evening in Florida.

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DATES

2014 MIDWEST EVENTS

- 03/06 Midwest March Meeting, Lemont, IL
- 04/29 Midwest April Meeting, Silver Lake Country Club
- 05/05 Midwest / ITF Combined, CC of Peoria
- 06/16 Midwest June Meeting, Aurora Country Club

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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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Justin Van Landuit
Briarwood Country Club

2014 Event Planning

GIS 2014 is in the past so now it's time to start thinking about the 2014 season. I'm finding it hard to do as everything is still so white and cold. What an unreal winter we are having here in Chicago. Normally I enjoy this time of year and I like to see it go long.

Like most this year, I'm ready to see the snow disappear and the mercury rise. No matter the complaints, in a few months the our season will be kicking in full gear, not only with work on the golf course, but with Midwest education and golf events too. Our lineup for 2014 is shaping up though some details still need to be ironed out at a couple of our sites. As every year the committee tries to spread the events around the area, and it seems this year we've accomplished just that.

Our March Meeting is the last of the education only events and is early this year, March 6 at Midwest Golf House. The education committee has done a great job of lining up speakers for this half day of education on fungicide research, new products, and golf history. Our staff will cover the topics and bring you a recap of the topics in a future issue of On Course.

April we get into the swing of things as, David Kohley and Silver Lake Country Club will open their doors for us to carry out the annual spring scramble. Dave, our MAGCS President, is excited to have us come enjoy the golf course. We can all hope that by then the snow is gone and the sun is warm! (We purposefully scheduled the first outdoor event in the south for this reason.)

The month of May we travel further south to the Country Club of Peoria, as Andy Morris, Golf Course Superintendent welcomes us for the combined ITF/MAGCS outing. This event should be great; the ITF/MAGCS seem to always find a top notch place to play. Andy has done a great deal of work over the years and I've heard nothing but rave reviews about it. It will be a nice change of scenery to have some rolling hills and undulations that are scarce around Chicagoland.

In June we stay near Chicago, but head out west to Aurora Country Club to visit John Gurke, CGCS. The June event is always well attended as the Dom Grotti trophy is up for grabs and the Assistants' Championship is competed. Honor your Assistant by treating them to a day of golf with you. Maybe you'll come home with some hardware and a permanent place in the MAGCS history books.

The Family Night Picnic at the Kane County Cougar game has been a routine event for a Saturday night in the summer for our MAGCS members. This year we are changing things up; a family picnic is being planned for our families at the Midwest Golf House. We're planning to set up some games and golf for the children and maybe a few for adults, with food and refreshments for all. Last year, we also welcomed a new event in the month of July, the 9 or I should say 12 hole event. The event was held and great reviews followed. Plans are still being put into place for this event for 2014 and a venue will be announced soon.

Last season, Steve VanAcker hosted the MAGCS Championship in late August before the busy month of September was upon us. Following that lead, Ryan Tully will host the MAGCS Championship the last week of August at Harborside International. The course will definitely provide a challenge to all our competitors. We're also working on the format and scoring for the Championships to make things go more smoothly.

..... continued on page 15

Working for the USGA



Elliott Dowling, USGA

Working for the USGA, specifically working national championships has been a career goal of mine since volunteering for the 2006 PGA Championship at Medinah Country Club. All of you must be thinking: hey stupid, that was a PGA Tour event, how does that relate to working for the USGA?

The thrill of tournament golf got under my skin during my week volunteering for Tom Lively. I knew then, I wanted to be a part of this...somehow.

Unfortunately for the USGA and the golf community, Stanley Zontek passed away August 2012. His passing created an opening with the USGA's Mid-Atlantic region. During site visits with USGA agronomists, I made my intentions clear; I want to work for the USGA Green Section someday. I was contacted by Dr. Kimberly Erusha, managing director of the USGA Green Section last February gauging my interest in applying for the position. I literally rushed home from work to get my information and accompanying documents to her as soon as possible. I could not have been more excited!

I started with the USGA on May 27th 2013. So far, it has been everything I expected, and more. Visiting 80-100 golf facilities, athletic fields, universities and speaking at conferences provides an interesting perspective on turf management. Having the opportunity to see multiple courses across a varied region maintain turf provides the USGA agronomists an insightful

advantage to each facility we visit.

I was concerned moving from Chicago, which is all cool season turf to the transition zone. Other than academic knowledge of warm season turf, I have no experience maintaining it. Actually, I felt during the application process I would not make the cut primarily due to lack of experience maintaining warm season turf. Much to my surprise, I was not asked about my warm season experience during the interview process. The major focus was: can I handle the travel requirements and work load? Following each visit, we provide a detailed report outlining the topics of discussion. Dictating, editing and including pictures in a report with a 10 day turnaround time to the facility is expected.

TAS visits are what we are primarily known for. Superintendents and golfers rely on our experiences to help their golf facility. My region includes Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia, Maryland and Delaware; there are few problems that occur during a season that we do not see. Additionally, we ask superintendents to call and send pictures of issues they experience on their course. This helps us know what is happening in our region; information we can pass along when the situation occurs at another facility.



Elliott making a course visit this past summer with Superintendent Corey Haney and Assistant Trevor Garabow at Washington Golf and Country Club.

In early July, the weather was very difficult for many across the Mid-Atlantic region. I was called on several "emergency" visits to courses that experienced turf loss and needed help. I knew how the superintendent felt standing there in front of a committee who wanted answers. Staying calm while I explained to the group (who were upset and not really interested in the answer) is difficult.

I continually find it amazing that I visit one course where the topic of conversation is eradication of bermudagrass, than drive a few miles away where Bermuda is being maintained. Philadelphia is no longer the northern edge of bermudagrass. Chances are, when visiting courses from central Pennsylvania through Virginia and Maryland, burmudagrass will be a topic of conversation in some regard.

Additionally, different weed, insect and disease challenges occur in the Mid-Atlantic region that do not in the Midwest. For instance, annual bluegrass weevil (ABW) is a major concern throughout the region. Unfortunately, ABW now feeds on bentgrass. Large scale damage can occur if the insect is left untreated. To date, ABW is not a problem in Chicago. Until I started with the USGA, I never dealt with ABW. This insect in particular required a lot of learning on my part. From June through October, this insect was discussed on many visits.

As I reflect back on the season, and my decision to join the USGA, I am filled with joy. What a great organization to work for! We are the face of golf in the United States. Having the opportunity to visit so many golf facilities and provide support makes me smile every time. My day is always enhanced when a course calls to tell me of the improvements/changes they are making as a result of my visit. I am fortunate to be in a region that holds golf in the highest regard. It is truly a way of life in the Mid-Atlantic region. Because of this, my region has one or two championships a year. It is a pleasure to realize my career goal of working for the organization that so many of us associate with championship golf. @

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MARCH 2014

Dates to Remember

March 6 – MAGCS meeting at Midwest Golf House in Lemont, IL, Dr. Ed Nangle and Chris Painter hosts.

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

March 12 – 30th Annual Chicagoland Forum at Naperville Country Club, Tim Anderson, CGCS, MG and Steven Biehl hosts.

March 30 – Deadline for nominations for GCM's Most Valuable Technician awards program presented in partnership with Foley United.

April 9 – CAGCS meeting at Lake Shore Country Club, Jeff Frentz, CGCS host.

April 27 – 2014 National Club Conference at the Fairmont Hotel in San Francisco, CA.

April 29 – MAGCS monthly meeting and Spring Scramble at Silver Lake Country Club, David Kohley host.

May 5 - ITF/MAGCS Combined Event -Country Club of Peoria, Andy Morris Host.

Did you lose a RIGHT-HANDED KING COBRA OVERSIZED 8 IRON at the MAGCS golf event at Chicago Highlands last October? If so, you are in luck! Brian Winkel, upon a recent inspection of his golf bag (which should contain strictly LEFT_HANDED clubs) made the discovery and would like to get the club back to its rightful owner. Contact Wink at brian.winkel@syngenta.com to claim your prize.

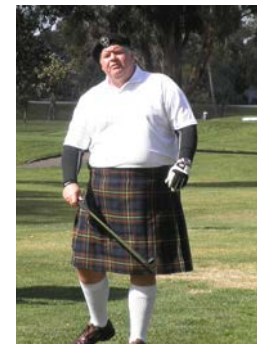
There's more movement to report on the job front: Virgil Range, former superintendent at Maryville Country Club in Maryville, MO has accepted the GM/Superintendent position at Sugar Creek Golf Club in High Ridge, MO. Brian Stout, former assistant at Edgewood Valley



Virgil Range



Brian Stout



and Mike MacMumper

Country Club in LaGrange, IL has been named its new superintendent; and Mike Mumper is the new superintendent at Villa Olivia in Bartlett, IL. Furthermore, Jeremy Duncan, former assistant at Cantigny Golf is the new superintendent at Fox Run Golf Links; and Michael Paciga, former assistant at Biltmore Country Club takes the reins as superintendent of Kemper Lakes Golf Club. Congratulations and best of luck to these MAGCS members!

Our sincere condolences to John Leibold and family on the passing of John's father last month. John H. Leibold passed away on February 8th at the age of 76. Please keep the Leibold family in your thoughts and prayers during this difficult time.

The Senior PGA Championship is returning to Harbor Shores in Benton Harbor, MI on May 19-25, and volunteers are needed to work the tournament. Superintendent Brad Fry is requesting that anyone interested in helping out during this major tournament contact him as soon as possible at bfry@kempersports.com or call him at 269-369-8982.

Always wanted to be a weather spotter but never knew how? Well, here's your chance—NIU Weather, in cooperation with the Northern Illinois University chapter of the American Meteorological Society, will host its annual severe weather spotter training session on Tuesday, March

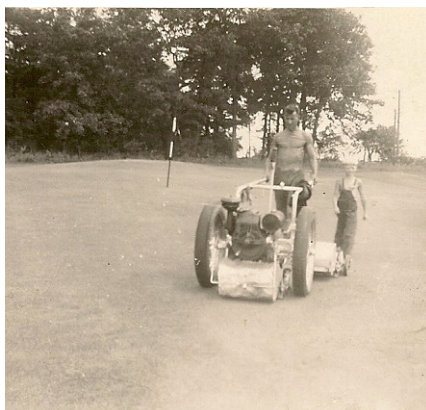
18th at 7:30 PM in Cole Hall on the NIU campus in DeKalb. The program will last roughly two hours and all are welcome. If you want to grow in your knowledge of thunderstorms and severe weather, and serve your community and those downstream from you by accurately reporting weather information to the National Weather Service, this session is for you. There's no cost, no registration, just bring as many people who are interested and go. Sounds like a hoot.

Congratulations to Reinders, Inc. on being named Foley-United's 2013 Distributor of the Year at the Golf Industry Show last month. Jim Letourneau, Foley-United president presented the award to Craig Reinders, Reinders president and his commercial equipment team.



L to R: John Jensen (Reinders), Ron Blodgett (Foley-United), Mark Robel (Reinders), Derek Kastenschmidt (Reinders), Jim Letourneau (Foley-United), Craig Reinders, Tim Snell (Reinders), Joe Etten (Reinders), Steve Stewart (Reinders), and Greg Turner (Foley-United)

March 15th marks the deadline for applications for Par Aide's Joseph S. Garske Collegiate Grant competition. The program offers educational aid to the children and stepchildren of GCSAA members. Applicants must be graduating high school seniors and accepted at institutions of higher learning for the upcoming year. Founded by Par Aide in honor of Joseph S. Garske and administered by the Environmental Institute for Golf, \$7,500 in scholarships will be awarded. To apply, go to www.eifg.org and click on the Education tab, then click on the Scholarships tab.



Name This MAGCS Member hint #1: This gentleman is one of MAGCS' longest-standing living members, and is pictured here on the grounds of the Fox Valley Golf Course in 1939 as a young tike (he's the little fellow next to the big tan guy operating the bad-a\$\$ walking mower).

If you're heading to Augusta this April for the Masters, there will be a new look to the 17th hole. The 65-foot high loblolly pine known as the Eisenhower Tree (or Ike's Tree) will not be there, having been removed after a storm damaged it beyond

hope last month. The tree stood about 210 yards from the tee on the left side of the par-4 17th, and was believed to be 100 to 125 years old. President Dwight D. "Ike" Eisenhower, an avid golfer and member of Augusta National, hit his tee shots into the tree on a regular basis, prompting him to propose cutting it down at a meeting in 1956, only to be ruled out of order by Masters co-founder Clifford Roberts who then adjourned the meeting. Cool bit of history there, and if the tree spade exists that can plop a 65-foot tree in the same spot, you can bet Augusta National will find it and have it done.

Congratulations to Jim Hall of Inwood Golf Course on his retirement last month—enjoy your salad days, sir!

Get your nominations in for your favorite equipment technician—GCM magazine's Most Valuable Technician awards program presented in partnership with Foley-United is accepting nominations until the end of this month. Go to www.gcsaa.org to nominate your guy.

Name This MAGCS Member hint #2: His superintendent father and he once saved the life of a boy who had fallen through the ice on a pond at Aurora Country Club where he worked as his dad's assistant in the mid-fifties. (He's 2nd from left).



Congratulations to Scot Spier, CGCS and Roger Stewart, CGCS on their successful recertification through GCSAA.

We hear it all the time—our twin is out there somewhere. In Mike Bavier's case, that twin was halfway around the world. In Spain. Driving a bus. That Bruce Williams happened to be riding in while he was there speaking to the Federation of European Golf Greenkeepers Association in Catalunya. Or did Mike actually move to Spain and hook onto a sweet bus-driving gig? He DOES like to travel...

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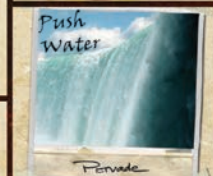


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