

# ON COURSE

THE MIDWEST ASSOCIATION OF GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS

July 2009

Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents  
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Cover and above photo: 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](http://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

Tony Kalina, *Prairie Landing Golf Course*



# Isn't it Time to Give Back – Give BassAckwards?

*If I told you that the MAGCS Board is planning to conduct a special golf event to raise funds to support our scholarship - would you want to participate? What if I told you that you were going to have guaranteed fun, and the event was a never-before contested golf format for MAGCS—that it was fast, safe, moral, and legal and benefitted high school and college students—would you sign-up? If you answered yes to these questions then you just took the first step for playing in a “BassAckwards” Outing to support the MAGCS Scholarship Fund.*

The MAGCS Board of Directors and I are excited and proud to introduce this exciting, new opportunity to you. A “BassAckwards” Outing is scheduled for Tuesday, July 21st at Prairie Landing Golf Club, in West Chicago, IL. The registrants will play 9-holes of golf – “BassAckwards”. “BassAckwards” is a play on the word “backwards” because that is exactly what we’ll be doing – playing golf backwards!

Confusing, troublesome, awkward, you say? Not at all! Here’s an example of how it works. Let’s say you’re starting on the 5th hole in this shotgun event. You’ll tee it up on the 5th tee, but you’ll play your tee shot back to the 4th green. After holing out on the 4th green, you’ll proceed to the 4th tee where you will play your tee shot to the 3rd green, and so on, and so on. Each hole played will have been fashioned into a unique, new par 3-hole to defy and challenge with exacting yardages provided! It’s that simple and amusing!

The “BassAckwards” format is enjoyable and satisfying for golfers of all skill levels and abilities. The event will start around 1:00 p.m. and conclude with a cook-out following the golf. So, it won’t take up your time with an all-day episode. Good food, good drink, good times—all while we raise money for our good cause. Further details can be found under the events calendar at [www.magcs.org](http://www.magcs.org). I hope you can join us for this one-of-a-kind affair. It should be a blast!

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*Good food, good drink, good times -  
all while we raise money for our good cause.*

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This year’s scholarship applicants are being judged for their application completeness, scholastic merit, and community service. Sixteen scholarship applications were received from students this year—4 high school and 12 college. Scholarships winners and their families will be honored for their achievements and awarded their gifts during the MAGCS Family Picnic Night at the Kane County Cougars baseball game on Saturday, July 25th in Geneva, IL. If you have never attended this picnic, you are really missing out!

Since MAGCS’s inception in 1926, our association has strived to provide education, networking and growth opportunities to every member. Those goals remain steadfastly firm with our Scholarship Committee and Board of Directors. Try to make one of these two special events this year. If you cannot, consider making a generous donation on behalf of our member-ship’s students and families.

Isn’t it time to give back? Isn’t it time to give  
“BassAckwards!” **-OC**

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## DIRECTOR'S COLUMN

Harry Lovero, Orchard Valley Golf Course

# Keep the Articles Coming



*This is my annual plea as Editorial Committee chair to our membership for a call out for articles. It truly amazes me when I pick up another industry magazine and see an article in it penned by one of our own. That in itself is a great accomplishment to be read nationally. In addition, many of you that have written for industry publications have taken the time to write for your association publication, "On Course". Moreover, we thank you very much for that. However, there are those of you who prefer to write only for industry magazines and prefer not to write for "On Course". I wish I understood why. With a membership of right around eight hundred strong, if "On Course" had at least half of you writing for it and contributing occasionally, I would never have to write a column like this.*

Our objective here is to have enough information for the editorial calendar so that we do not have to go begging and relying on the same authors to fill the pages of your association magazine, which is nationally recognized as a top notch golf course association publication.

Please do not get me wrong, I do not want to shame you into contributing; however, it would be nice to get something to work with. I know you all have the talent to go to your computer, or your legal pad, and write out an article. I have never seen a more talented group of individuals than our Midwest Association. Again, I know it takes time, and as I always say, the article can be professional, personal, or a hobby; it does not always have to be entirely technical.

Mental blocks plague us all, but with all of our individual career experiences, I am certain there is an article in there just waiting to get out. You will not know until you try.

In addition, please try to include photos. It is always a plus to visualize what it is that you are writing about.

In addition, please call Luke Cella or myself if you are not sure or if you need a little assistance. This is my third year as the Editorial Chair and believe me, it is nerve racking every month to see if Luke is going to have enough print to get it done, but amazingly enough we do. Thanks to Luke and the talents of our graphic artist Mark Karczewski for always getting the job done.

My challenge to you, the membership of The Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents, is simple: PLEASE KEEP THE WELL FROM GOING DRY! Remember, this is your association, and we are here to serve you. Without your help and participation, there is no association.

I would also like to give a big thank you to my editorial committee, John Gurke, Dr. Derek Settle, Darrick Robbins, Fred Behnke, Chuck Anfield, Scott Verdun, Larry Tomaszewski, Ted Soenksen, Wes Danielewicz, Virgil Range, and Charles Hill. In addition, of course to Luke Cella for his guidance. And to all of our authors who have taken the time throughout the years to pen articles for us.

Scott Verdun and the Class "C" advisory committee are responsible for the Super -n- Sites every month. Thank you Scott.

Finally much gratitude to our sponsors for their untimely-continued support of "On Course". Please acknowledge them and say thank you to let them know how much you appreciate their continued support.

We will see you in "On Course". **-OC**



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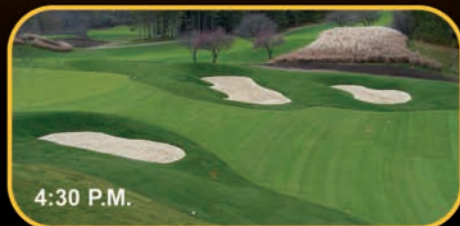
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## FEATURE ARTICLE I

Jason Sarna, MAGCS and Keith Rincker, CDGA

# iTurfExpo – Unleashed



*On August 25-26, 2009, the Illinois Turfgrass Foundation (ITF) will host the first ever iTurfExpo at the Midwest Golf House Complex – Sunshine Course. This event combines aspects from both the annual Illinois Professional Turf Conference (IPTC) and the biennial Midwest Field Day into one unified event.*

The ITF is committed to funding turf research and education in Illinois. It seeks to accomplish this through:

- Providing the best solutions for turf management
- Presenting opportunities for members to advance their knowledge, professionalism, and value to the turf industry in Illinois
- Establishing a viable network between industry, research, and education

The iTurfExpo is the conduit for all of these objectives to occur. The ITF is steeped in funding turf research and strives to bring impartial and useful research conclusions to its members. The unique setting of the Sunshine Course allows the ITF to conduct this research and present findings directly to you—the turf professional. We have all spent many winter seminars viewing slides and images of turf under research, the iTurfExpo allows our researchers to present their findings in real life. Come be a part of this exchange of information. Bring your questions and leave with new understandings that make you a better turf manager.

The iTurfExpo research topics are:

- Fungicide Trials and Programming
- Organic Fertilizer Trials
- *Poa Annua* Management and Control
- New Herbicide Testing
- Turf Variety Trials
- Foliar Nutrition



- In addition, the iTurfExpo allows attendees the opportunity to see new products and services, but unlike the IPTC, the iTurfExpo tradeshow is outdoors. Turf professionals work outdoors, why shouldn't they have education and events specifically designed for them to learn in their working environment? The iTurfExpo does just that. Through careful and advance planning, the iTurfExpo strives to achieve the following:
- Create an atmosphere where attendees can actually SEE the latest products and equipment in action, not just brochures and parked equipment
  - Offer attendees the opportunity to discuss products/equipment with suppliers and professional product representatives
  - Discuss options for future needs

The iTurfExpo is the fundraising event for your profession. Through the utilization of the Sunshine Course and the Midwest Golf House Complex, the ITF is able to provide access to the event at a very reasonable expense for all attendees. If you register prior to August 14 (early bird registration deadline) the registration fee for an ITF member is only \$50 per person. The cost of the IPTC and Field Day combined (2008 numbers) would total over \$250! The iTurfExpo provides attendees with just as much useful information at not nearly the cost, a true value to you and your facility.

*(continued on page 9)*

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Please note, your fee covers entry to the event for both days. You and your staff are encouraged to come each day, as the research presented will be different.

Attendees will also have the option to play at Cog Hill's Dubsdread on Tuesday, August 25 @ 1 pm at an additional cost. The field will be limited to the first 144 registrants and may fill up fast as we will be the last group on the newly remodeled course prior to the PGA Tour coming to town. Thank you to Ken Lapp, golf course superintendent, for hosting this event for our group. The event will be a two man best ball.

The iTurfExpo also offers many different education sessions for you and your staff. Utilizing the environment and resources of the Midwest Golf House Complex, the education has been planned to be different from anything you can get and see indoors. The education committee has chosen topics and sessions based on their ability to be led outdoors. The idea was simple – if it is a class that can be taught indoors, we will present that in the winter, let's create education sessions that are hands on and interactive. The sessions that will be presented include:

- Bedknife Facing and mower sharpening
- Chainsaw / Line trimmer Safety
- Chemical Mixing and Loading
- Annual Flower Trials
- Irrigation Repair
- Logo Painting
- Paver Installation
- Pesticide Spill Containment
- Pruning Walk
- Rotary Mower Sharpening
- Sprayer / Spreader Calibration
- Weed Identification

Education sessions will run concurrently and be repeated throughout, there is no need to sign up for a specific one, just attend the ones that interest you or your staff.

### General Information

Entrance onto the Sunshine Course will begin at 8 am each morning. Research stops will run concurrently at the top of each hour. At the bottom of the hour, product and equipment demonstrations will take place. Various exhibitor booths and tables will be setup throughout the course. Once inside, attendees will be able to wander and visit the various trade show booths, check out research stops, and view live equipment and products demonstrations. Food and beverages will be available to purchase onsite during the trade show.

The ITF board has been working extremely hard to create a unique, fun, and beneficial event for all parties involved. They have listened to you and hope this new venture meets your needs as a turf professional while raising funds to propel the future of turf.

There is no other show around that offers its attendees an experience like that of the iTurfExpo. Please mark your calendars and plan on attending this year's iTurfExpo!

*(continued on next page)*



*The iTurfExpo education will be outdoors, interactive and hands on.*



*Come out and see research results funded by the ITF and MAGCS.*



*Check out the latest equipment and products in action.*

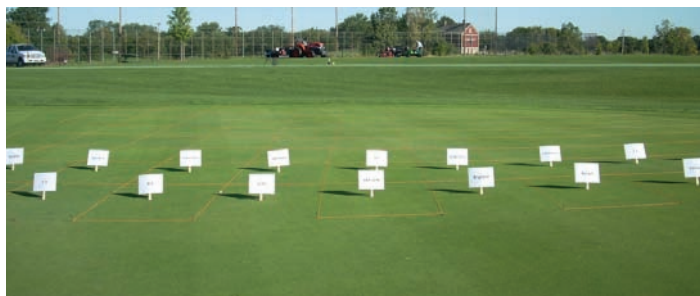
## CDGA Sunshine Course, an Outdoor Laboratory



In 2001 the Chicago District Golf Association (CDGA) began construction on Sunshine Course. The idea was to build a golf course dedicated to the Sunshine Through Golf Foundation and affiliated groups for educational, therapeutic, recreational, and rehabilitative uses. The facility was to become a turfgrass research laboratory and a living arboretum. A multitude of turfgrass species and varieties as well as different trees, shrubs, flowers, and ornamental grasses, were planned to fill this outdoor laboratory. Many organizations pulled together to accomplish this task which was completed fall 2002 and saw its first round of golf in 2003. Today the idea lives on with an expansion of turfgrass variety trials and has taken on a new breath by investigation of annuals and perennials for the landscape.

When the CDGA moved to their new location in Lemont, Dr. Randy Kane already had a turfgrass program in place. Dr. Kane provided diagnostic consultation and active research. For example, his program collaborated with area superintendents to conduct fungicide and plant growth regulator trials on Chicagoland golf courses. He was instrumental in the planning of Sunshine Course's turfgrass and with the assistance of Lee Miller set up many varieties and species to cover the greens, tees, fairways, and rough. Creeping bentgrass varieties primarily covered the tees, fairways, and greens, while other not so common turfgrass species were also established. Six different turfgrass species were established on the course and over twenty-four varieties of creeping bentgrass on the practice green. Two additional plots were set up in out of play areas in collaboration with Dr. Tom Voigt and the National Turfgrass Evaluation Program (NTEP). One trial included creeping and

colonial bentgrasses to be tested for fairways and tees. A second fine leaf fescue trial was installed to evaluate for unmowed roughs. These trials were the result of Chicagoland superintendents' desire for turfgrass research in their region that would be nearby and accessible. The turf industry in Chicago needed Sunshine Course, an outdoor turfgrass laboratory to address their needs.



*The practice green at Sunshine Course is complete with 24 varieties in randomized plots and 15 represented in ten foot strips across the green.*

As the three holes of Sunshine Course were established with turfgrass varieties, more research and demonstration plots were installed around the course. Dr. Voigt from The University of Illinois (U of I) evaluated several turfgrass species under unmowed conditions and set up a demonstration of 20 different ornamental grasses used in landscapes. Dr. Ken Diesburg from Southern Illinois University brought a touch of southern grasses to Sunshine Course as he evaluated different zoysiagrass varieties and how they establish in a cooler environment. The grounds of Midwest Golf House were also used as an educational tool when Carl Hopphan, with help of Illinois nursery men and women, planted landscape trees and shrubs around the building. Numerous ornamentals, woody and herbaceous, were selected to show the latest advancements from the Morton Arboretum, Chicago Botanical Gardens, and area nurseries. In the years that followed, two U of I Extension specialists, Greg Stack and Richard Hentschel, moved their offices to Midwest Golf House and added more landscape beds around the building. Each demonstration garden is complete with signage to show the name of each landscape plant for daily visitors and during the summer research Field Day.



*Sunshine Course was completed in 2002 and serves as an outdoor laboratory for many visitors throughout the year.*



*Each year landscape beds are filled with color surrounding Midwest Golf House. Common and scientific names are labeled.*

In addition to the variety trial research and demonstrations on Sunshine Course, IPM (integrated pest management) research, under the direction of Dr. Kane and later Dr. Derek Settle, began every year on Sunshine Course. Replicated research trials focus on controlling dollar spot and brown patch, two of the biggest disease issues facing golf course turf in Chicago. Fungicide research continues to see many new and different product names. Some are available, and some are on the cutting edge and not yet available. The access of fungicide research trials to turf managers has become important and allows a direct comparison of their ability to control disease in the field. Other research to benefit golf courses has included controlling moss encroachment on putting greens in a 2005-2006 research project with the United States Golf Association (USGA). Later in 2007-2008, USGA- sponsored research investigated several

biostimulant products on putting greens with collaboration of Dr. Peter Dernoeden, University of Maryland. Herbicide research was brought to Sunshine Course by Dr. Bruce Branham and Bill Sharp from the U of I. They have shown the usefulness of new herbicides available to golf courses and sod farms.

**With all the many plant types, varieties, turfgrass species, fungicides, and product testing it is easy to see Sunshine Course is a place to learn, but who are the students?**

Many people can view Sunshine Course for a lesson in turfgrass science and the Green Industry. College students from Joliet Junior College visited last fall, and this spring a group of graduate students and researchers from Kansas State University and North Dakota State University got a glimpse of active turfgrass research at a facility that is also an active golf course. In addition, university researchers regularly visit Sunshine Course as they work on research projects which not only generate valuable data but later can be showcased on Field Day. Also, company research and development representatives come to visit when research of their product occurs on Sunshine Course. Not to forget, all of us in the CDGA Turfgrass Program learn from Sunshine Course every day. To learn the dynamics of the turf environment, we continually scout for pest issues and rate plots. Most importantly, participants at field day can visit to learn about testing on Sunshine Course. Each of the research trials can be visited with labeled plots. It is important to note that superintendents or interested committee members can come and inspect the turfgrass variety they are interested in. They can visualize what the end result will be on their course by seeing newer varieties in a mature state.

*(continued on next page)*



*Many new products are tested on Sunshine Course each year.*

## What have we learned from this outdoor laboratory?

We learned that at fairway height colonial bentgrass gets too much brown patch to remain competitive during the summer months and cannot persist year after year. The creeping bentgrass varieties of 'Declaration' and 'Pennlinks II' have shown good dollar spot resistance and performed well in the fairway/tee NTEP trial. In 2008, newer fungicides like Emerald and Tourney performed well controlling dollar spot on Sunshine's number 2 bentgrass fairway, while some did not work during peak season pressure. We learned that moss infesting Sunshine's number 1 green can be controlled with either spot-applications of baking soda or with broadcast applications of Quicksilver. In addition, cultural practices like a low mowing height can increase moss development. Most recently, research on Sunshine's number 2 green has shown that urea can provide a good visual quality while supplying the plant with basic nutrition at a good price. Research on Sunshine Course yields results throughout the season and are posted regularly in the weekly Turfgrass eScouting Report.

## What is new in 2009?

Seven years after the initial establishment of turfgrass variety trials on Sunshine Course, three are in the process of being replaced and a new trial location was installed this spring. A bentgrass variety trial is currently being established and managed as a fairway and also another to be managed as a putting green. These two trials will take a new look at about 25 varieties and incorporate two fungicide treatments to find varieties that provide adequate quality with reduced inputs. In addition to two new bentgrass trials, our number three fairway bluegrass

is currently being replaced with 52 new Kentucky bluegrass varieties that are intended to grow under fairway conditions. These varieties will be tested for their quality performance and tolerance to new selective herbicides. The fourth trial, a tall fescue trial of 58 varieties made its debut to Sunshine grounds in May and continues to grow in. These varieties will be evaluated for their resistance to brown patch. Also, an exciting new addition to Sunshine this year is a trail of different annual landscape plants. Over 150 varieties are included with 35 different petunias and various begonias, salvias, zinnias, and snapdragons. Some plants are All America Selection winners and will be released in 2010. Within the fungicide trials are several new names as well. Honor, Interface, Reserve, Triton, and Civitas are all being tested on Sunshine this year. In total, about 30 products will be tested for dollar spot control in the fairway.



*58 tall fescue varieties are now showing their color and texture differences on Sunshine Course.*



*Field Day is a great opportunity to see research conducted on Sunshine Course.*



*A show of color from 150 annuals has just begun on Sunshine Course.*

Also new this year, the Illinois Turfgrass Foundation will host a new field day format called the iTurfExpo. The new event is scheduled for August 25th and 26th and the timing is perfect. Sunshine Course is full of new research and excitement, and anticipation can be felt throughout the CDGA Turfgrass Program. The number of organizations that have come together in the past to establish and sponsor research on Sunshine Course is amazing and the effort continues. The iTurfExpo will be expanded and will cover not only golf turf but also lawn and sports turf. In addition, safety demonstrations may be available for employee training. The annual ornamental trials add another component to show new introductions available for landscape beds that so many turf managers work closely with. This year Sunshine Course has expanded and added many new trials that will teach us all in the Green Industry.

### Acknowledgements

I am grateful for the information provided to me by Carl Hoppahan, Greg Stack, Richard Hentschel, Dr. Derek Settle and Dr. Randy Kane. **-OC**



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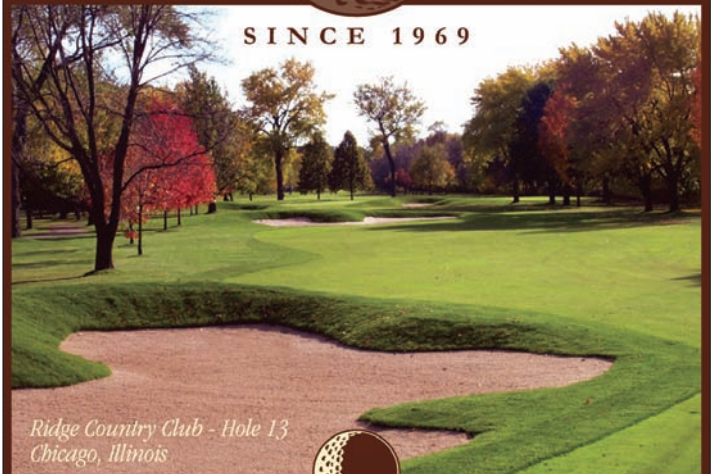


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# Get Converged



*It wasn't that long ago each of us had a paper calendar, a rolodex or address book, a watch on our wrist, and a phone on our desk. Sometimes I long for those simpler days, but they are gone.*

Each meeting I attend I notice more and more golf course superintendents are using the latest technology to communicate. Remember the first cell phone you had? I do. It was pretty thick and bulky, and the reception was questionable. However, it got me out of the office. I was taking care of the general contracting on a construction project on the golf course and the cell phone saved me from an endless game of phone tag by allowing me to be on the golf course.

Now present day – we have converged. It is hard to find a cell phone that doesn't keep track of your contacts, has a basic calendaring program, camera, games, ability to text, surf the web, and even record video. If you are replacing your cell phone soon (most do it every two years) I would urge you to take a look at a smartphone BlackBerry, iPhone, etc). Don't take the attitude – I'm just using it for a phone when you can carry your office with you on the course.

In terms of features, most smartphones support full-featured email capabilities with the functionality of a complete personal organizer. Other functionality might include an additional interface such as a miniature QWERTY keyboard, a touch screen, a built-in camera, contact management, an accelerometer, built-in navigation hardware and software, the ability to read business documents in a variety of formats such as PDF and Microsoft Office, media software for playing music, browsing photos and viewing video clips, internet browsers, or even just secure access to company mail. One common feature associated with many smartphones is the ability to store as many contacts as the available memory permits, in contrast to regular phones that have limits to the maximum number of contacts that can be stored.

In a time when we are looking to increase our efficiencies and be more productive, there may be no better and helpful tool than a smartphone.

## Synchronize with Your Computer

Perhaps the greatest key to a smartphone is its ability to "sync" (short for synchronize) with your computer. This keeps the data on your phone the same as on your computer. One added benefit of syncing your phone with your computer is that it backs up both systems. I'm not partial to someone who is

redundant, especially at a meeting, but I like to set up my data into redundant systems. Using a smartphone and a computer backs up of all of your important data for both systems.

Most smartphones will ship with software that allows you to sync with your computer. Once the computer software is loaded, you are able to

connect your smartphone into your computer with a cable that allows each to exchange data. By syncing, the computer and smartphone take a look at all your information and update each other. For instance, if I add a contact on my smartphone while on the golf course, the next time I sync with my computer that new contact will be added to my computer. Or, if I add an item to my calendar on my computer, it will add that item to my calendar on my smartphone.

Another added benefit of having a smartphone is that the first time you hook up your smart phone to your computer, it will transfer all of your contacts to your smartphone. Even if you don't have your contacts or other data on your computer, you

*(continued on page 17)*



*The smartphone market has gone past the BlackBerry as many companies now offer these little wonders.*

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can still use your computer to enter the information. No more using a small, little keypad to enter each of your contacts into a new cell phone. You can use your keyboard attached to your computer to enter your data.

Oh, another place I like redundant systems are on airplanes when I'm flying.

## Contacts

My son found an old address book/keeper thing the other day at my parents' house and was amazed by it. It was one of those spring loaded things where you slid the pointer to the letter of the person's last name, pressed a button, and it opened to all the contacts in that category. (I noticed there was only room for one phone number, and certainly no email address in the contraption). Of course, you may still keep a little black book like Fonzie with all your key contacts in it, but if you are like most of us, your contacts are on your phone and the only time you ever really think about them is when you get a new one because you dread the thought of having to transfer all those numbers over to your new phone.

A smartphone will store all your contacts (for the most part, unlimited) with all their pertinent data and some data you can't even think of keeping. Smartphones offer you many different fields to keep track of, not only work and home phones, but fax numbers, email addresses, home and work addresses, birthdays (good for spouses), anniversaries (also good for spouses), children's names, and even a place to store their name spelled phonetically. Though some of this might be overkill, how nice would it be to have your new green chairman's wife's name at a moments notice?

## Calendar

I can keep track of several calendars on my smartphone. You might ask why I would need several calendars instead of just one. Of course I have a work calendar. This is really my main one and gets the most entries. No need to splain this one Lucy.

I also keep a calendar for my employees with their hours worked, the hours they plan to work, and any vacation time requested. There is also a summer baseball game and practice calendar for both of my sons. I also keep a separate calendar

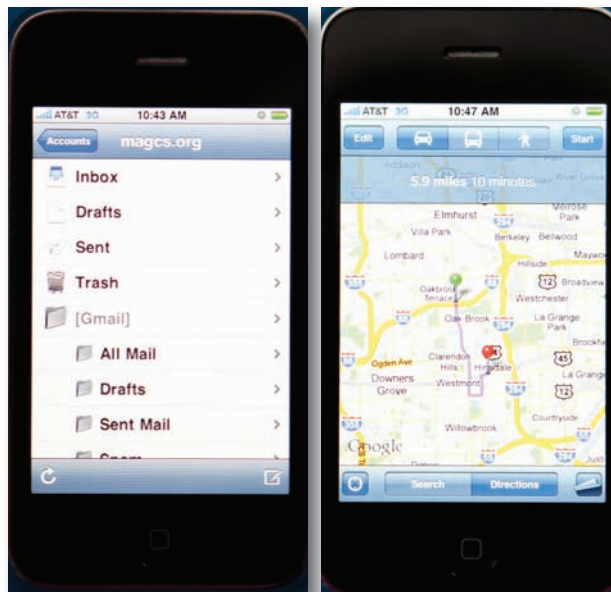
for home that includes doctor appointments, events for the kids, vacations, etc. Oh yea, I also have a calendar that has all the Cubs games on it (I downloaded and imported it onto my phone). I even just started a new calendar that I use to keep track of my "exercise," but it's pretty empty at this point. Golf is an exercise, right? I've played a few times this year, I can record the course, and the score I shot. Yes, these calendars are all on my phone. I can also turn them on and off so I don't have to view them all at once, in fact, during the last Cub's skid, I turned off their calendar for a few days.

No matter how many calendars you keep, the greatest part of having it on your phone is it is always with you. When you get that call from your friend that invites you to a Cubs game, you can check your schedule right away and figure out if you can make it.

Electronic calendars are very easy to set up and are great for reoccurring events. Green committee every third Tuesday of the month? No problem, create the one event and set it to reoccur monthly. Conference call at 1:00 pm next Monday? Add it to your calendar and have your phone send a reminder 10 minutes before the call with a note that contains the phone number for you to call.



*One of the keys to a smartphone is its ability to store practically unlimited contact information.*



*Smartphones keep you in touch through e-mail and can even bring up a weather radar.*

## Email

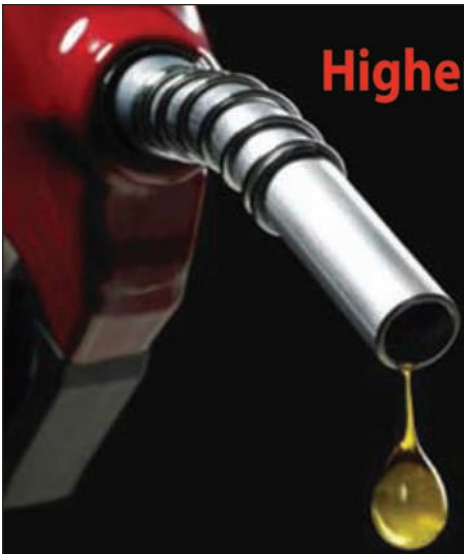
Some like to have their email sent directly to their phone, others don't care for it. I can understand the inclination not to use a phone in this manner, but no one has to know that you have your email on your phone.

I have my email sent to my phone, and I use it to keep track of what I have to deal with when I return to my office. I typically will respond to an email on my phone when I know I won't have the opportunity to sit in front of my computer and/or when a message needs my immediate attention. We all know who those people are that expect an immediate response and sometimes a phone with email helps us to live up to their standards. And actually, sometimes an email can be more

effective means of communication, especially if you don't really want to talk to the person.

Some might fear that they will mess up their email on their computer if they have it sent to their phone. Fear not, for there is an option for your smartphone to only download a copy

*(continued on page 19)*



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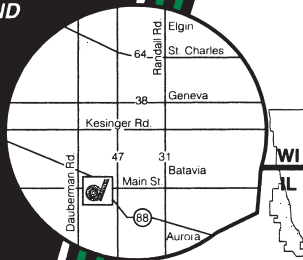
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## Text Messaging

Most cell phone are able to text message. Text messaging, or texting, is an informal term referring to the exchange of brief written messages between mobile phones. While the term most often refers to messages sent using the Short Message Service (SMS), it has been extended to include messages containing image, video, and sound content, such as MMS messages. Individual messages are referred to as "text messages" or "texts". Most smartphones can text via SMS and MMS at present.

## Tasks and Notes

Superintendents are a group of list-makers, there is no doubt about it. As you travel the course, there are always things popping up that need to be done by your staff. Part of the reason Supers like to make lists is the great satisfaction in crossing completed items off your list each day. A smartphone is a great place to keep and sort your lists. You can apply priorities, completion dates, assign staff, and even set reminders for all your tasks.

One of the greatest tools I used to make lists when I made my morning and afternoon loops was a voice recorder. I never had to stop my golf car to scribble something down—I just talked to myself as I went. Many smartphones today have voice recorders built into them and make it very easy to record a voice memo.

## The difference is in the operating system (OS)

A smartphone differs from a cell phone in that it has its own operating system. For instance, the iPhone operates on the iPhone OS, basically a pared down version of their Mac OS. Other operating systems include: Symbian OS, RIM's BlackBerry, Windows Mobile, Linux, Palm Web OS, and Android.

How important is it to know about these? For the most part, not all that much; however, it might be important to know which ones are the most popular, Symbian, iPhone, and RIM's (Research in Motion) are the big three at present, because they usually have the most support and are time tested. Because these devices have their own operating system, they have the ability to add applications (e.g. for enhanced data processing, connectivity, or entertainment) - in contrast to regular phones which only support sandboxed applications (like Java games). Since the operating system is open, these smartphone applications may be developed by the manufacturer of the device, by the network operator, or by any other third-party software developer. The popular iPhone phrase, "We've got an app for that" refers to programs developed by third party developers that allow you to use your smartphone in many other ways. At present there are over 50,000 applications that you can purchase or download for free for an iPhone that

can just about turn your iPhone into anything you need it to be.

## Other Functions

### Camera

Most smartphones are being released with a built in camera and some actually take pretty decent pictures. Some of the newer models can even take video. You may think there is no need for a camera, but remember a picture is worth a thousand words and it might be nice to have a camera on your hip if needed.

### Music Player

By now most of us know what an iPod or MP3 player is and most smartphones have the ability to play music. I'll be honest here, though my phone will play music, I have never used it to do this, I've always defaulted to my iPod to take care of this task.

### Web Browsing

As cell phone carriers continue to increase the amount of data that can be transferred over their networks (currently 3G or 3rd Generation), more complex and varied applications can be used. This includes web browsing or "surfing the web". Screens on most smartphones are small and most people prefer to use their computer for this task; however, there are instances where having the access to the Internet in your pocket is a value. Checking the radar is a popular task and can be done from your smartphone's browser—handy on the course if a storm is coming and you want to know where it is.

Many other things a smartphone can do for you:

- Bookreaders (remember those things, you can download books and read them on your phone)
- Calculators (nice to have around, especially ones that will convert different measures)
- Games (there isn't much time to waste during the day, but games can be good mind clearers)
- GPS enabled – directions and

maps, marking locations, geotagging photographs (imbeds data into your picture taken with your phone to let you know the GPS coordinates)

So if you are in the market for a new phone, consider a smartphone. It was only a few years ago smartphones were big and clunky when compared to regular cell phones. For most, this was the deal breaker when choosing an item that would be a part of your wardrobe for the next few years. Let's face it, cell phones are like cars, they say something about you and when you chose one, design is just as important as functionality. New smartphones are as sleek and perhaps, a little larger than their cell phone brethren, but nonetheless still fashionable. The key is in their functionality. There are more and more things that keep you in your office and off the course, try and reverse that trend with a smartphone. **-OC**



*Apple's iPhone has many applications, some productive as the voice recorder and fun like the bird field guide that not only has pictures of the little buggers but recording to help you identify their voice.*



Welcome also to **Greg Johnson** of Eagle Brook Country Club who has accepted the open Director's position on the 2009 MAGCS Board of Directors. Thank you Greg for your dedication to this association, and best of luck in your tenure on the Board.

Congratulations to **Luke Cella** on his successful completion of 100 holes of golf in the Sunshine Through Golf Classic 100 marathon on May 30th. Luke competed in the event with the support of many MAGCS members who had pledged money that ultimately will go to the Sunshine Through Golf Foundation to benefit the beginners, juniors, individuals with disabilities, minorities, and economically disadvantaged in the Chicago District. Nice job, Luke.



*Bob Berry, past president of the CDGA led the charge both on and off the course during the 100 holes of golf marathon. Thank you to all those that contributed. Over \$113,000 was raised.*

(continued on page 22)

## DATES TO REMEMBER

July 21 – MAGCS Scholarship Fundraiser Golf Outing at Prairie Landing Golf Club in West Chicago, IL, **Tony Kalina, Travis Dykstra, and Eric Mundt** hosts.

July 25 – MAGCS Family Night Picnic and Kane County Cougars baseball game at Elfstrom Field in Geneva, IL.

July 27-29 – Illinois Open at Hawthorn Woods Country Club in Hawthorn Woods, IL, **David Schingel** host.

August 1 – Deadline for entries for Lebanon Turf's 2010 Dog Days of Golf calendar.

August 1 – Coincidentally, this is the deadline for entries in TurfNet's 2010 "Superintendent's Best Friend Calendar" presented by BASF.

August 18-19 – Junior Solheim Cup at Aurora Country Club, John Gurke, CGCS and **Virgil Range** hosts.

August 21 – Deadline for letters of support and nominations to be submitted for the GCSAA's 2010 Distinguished Service Award.

August 21-23 – Ping Solheim Cup at Rich Harvest Links in Sugar Grove, IL, **Jeff Vercautren** host.

August 25-26 – Inaugural iTurf Expo at Midwest Golf House and Sunshine Course in Lemont, IL, **Dr. Derek Settle, Keith Rincker, and Chris Painter** hosts. **Ken Lapp** hosts the iTurf Golf Classic, part of the festivities with the iTurfExpo. ([www.iturfexpo.com](http://www.iturfexpo.com) to register)

September 8 – MAGCS monthly meeting and Annual Golf Championship at Kemper Lakes Golf Club in Kildeer, IL, **Dan Tully** host.

September 10-13 – BMW Championship at the newly-renovated Cog Hill Country Club, **Ken Lapp** host.

September 10-17 – 55th USGA Senior Amateur Championship at Beverly Country Club, **Keith Peterson** host.

September 21 – Annual Wee One Golf Outing at Pine Hills Country Club in Sheboygan, WI, **Rod Johnson** host. ([www.weeone.org](http://www.weeone.org) to register)



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Keep the 21st open—Tony Kalina, Travis Dykstra and Eric Mundt will be hosting a unique golf event to benefit the MAGCS Scholarship Fund which will feature a first-ever “Bass Ackwards” format. This day is NOT about competition and winning and all that stuff—it’s about fun and fellowship and charity. Get your short game ready and come on over to PLGC for an afternoon of great times.

Back on May 18th **John Nelson** and **Scott Verdun** and the Merit Club hosted the 2009 ITF/MAGCS Spring Golf Day. This was a perfect day on a top-o-the-line golf facility. The golf event was a Four-Ball Match Play format, which was by the Red Team by a very slim 2 points. Proximity prizes were won by **Larry Flament** for his longest putt on #2; Drew Rodgers with his long putt on #16; **Bruce Schweiger** who had the closest to the pin on #11; and **Brad Marks** who was closest to the pin on #7. Congratulations to all the winners, to **Jeff Mazur** on winning the waterproof camera raffle, and many thanks to John, Scott, and the staff at Merit Club for a super day. Finally, we thank the day’s sponsors for their generous support—they were **Arthur Clesen, Inc., Bayer Environmental Science, BTSI, Burriss Equipment Company, Dow AgroSciences, Drop Zone Portable Services, Inc., Great Lakes Turf, Growing Solutions, Inc., JW Turf, Inc., Lebanon Turf, Lohmann Companies, Nels J. Johnson Tree Experts, Inc., Palatine Oil Company, Pearl Valley Organix Healthy Gro, Pendleton Turf Supply, Quali-Pro, Reinders, Inc., Spectrum Technologies, Inc.,** and **Syngenta Turf & Ornamental.**



Kevin DeRoo presents John Nelson with his host gifts in May.



Tony Kalina adding a little spit to raffle tickets for luck.

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Humble apologies for that photo of me in my Black Hawk Kool-Aid-drinking state I was in last month, but in my defense, it was taken before the Hawks were eliminated in the conference finals, and I had seats THIS close to the action...



Another MAGCS member who wears his team allegiance on his sleeve is **Chuck Barber** of Indian Lakes Resort, who bleeds the black and gold of the Steelers and Penguins (and not only this year when both luckily won their respective championships). Chuck was fortunate enough to score tickets to his first Steelers playoff game last winter, which he attended with his friend Nathan. Chuck explains that the eyewear was to protect from the crazy blowing snow, but more than likely these were just rose-colored beer goggles making the Steelers look more like the '85 Bears...



(L) MAGCS member Chuck Barber with the beer or snow goggles.

Don't forget about this month's MAGCS Family Night Picnic and Kane County Cougars game on the 25th in Geneva. Tickets are still available and there is no better (nor cheaper!) way to take the whole fam damily out for an evening of professional baseball in a great venue. All the food and drinks are included, and there is plenty for kids of all ages to do. Call Luke and reserve your tickets now!

Kudos to GCSAA's *Golf Course Management* magazine on winning five first place commercial publication writing awards and six merit awards from the Turf and Ornamental Communicators Association's (TOCA) awards ceremony on May 14th in Rio Grande, Puerto Rico.

In other industry news, John Deere Golf and Watertronics have teamed up to create a fully integrated irrigation control system. Watertronics will build Orion pump stations customized to interface with John Deere Golf's Aurora control systems for golf course irrigation.

Coming this September (the 10th through the 17th), Beverly Country Club and **Keith Peterson** will host the 55th USGA Senior Amateur Championship. Keith is requesting the assistance of any MAGCS members who can help—especially on the 10th through the 13th when 156 golfers will tee it up off the first and tenth tees, leaving the window for preparation very narrow. If you can help, give Keith a call and sign up for a great experience on a classic golf course at (708) 636-8700, ext. 252 or email him at [kpeterson@beverlycc.org](mailto:kpeterson@beverlycc.org).

The 2010 Golf Industry Show web site has officially launched—the interactive site [www.golfindustryshow.com](http://www.golfindustryshow.com) has all the information you need to plan your trip to San Diego, CA next February, including details about the USGA joining the show partnership, schedules, and just about everything else. The site will be constantly updated to keep you on top of your game, so check it out regularly.

There are two chances for you to get your dog famous, but you have to act fast. Lebanon Turf in conjunction with *Golfdom* magazine is looking for "cover girls" (or boys) for their 2010 Dog Days of Golf Calendar; while TurfNet and BASF are looking for the next Lassie for their "Superintendent's Best Friend Calendar" as well. Both deadlines for submissions—digital photos of your dog in action on your course—are due by August 1st. For information on the former, contact Cynthia Andrews at 800-532-0090, ext. 253. For the TurfNet/BASF dealie, send images of at least 4 megapixels to [amurray@golfweek.com](mailto:amurray@golfweek.com) or call Anna Murray at 407-563-7070.

GCSAA has selected its new chief operating officer. J. Rhett Evans, the director of parks, recreation, and commercial facilities for the City of Mesa, AZ will assume his duties on July 9th, and will be responsible for planning and directing key aspects of organizational operations, including policies, objectives and strategic initiatives. He will also develop and implement key programs that support GCSAA's short- and long-term financial and operational goals to ensure future sustained growth. So there.

Wanna save your ash? There is a web site ([www.treereseach.org](http://www.treereseach.org)) that you can log onto to find out the latest successful control measures to combat the devil emerald ash borer. And no—control measure #1 does not involve a chain saw. That's #2.

We at MAGCS pride ourselves as being on the cutting edge—an association that strives to be first in all things turf. We now have reached the next level, as there can be NO other association who can boast of a member with his own baseball card. Thank you to **Chuck** "He's not that bad" **Anfield** for bringing us to this new level of distinction. Chuck participated in the White Sox fantasy camp last winter, and was so impressive to the coaches that he was honored

(continued on page 27)



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with his own baseball card (with really bad gum included). Luis Aparicio commented that he's never seen anyone play shortstop like Chuck EVER. What a compliment!



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*Chuck Anfield showing the "baseball ready" position.*  
 .....

Not to be outdone, another of our members has distinguished himself AGAIN. **Dan Dinelli, CGCS**, in his 35th year at North Shore Country Club, was named one of *Golf Inc.* magazine's 20 most admired operators for 2009. Dan joins fellow GCSAA members Anthony Williams (Stone Mountain Golf Club in Georgia) and David Yanez (The Grand Del Mar in San Diego) as three individuals from our national association to receive this tremendous recognition which further cements the fact that GCSAA (and MAGCS) members are critical to the success of the facilities they operate and are valued leaders in our industry.

.....  
**Curtis Tyrrell, CGCS** will become very busy very soon. The membership of Medinah Country Club recently voted to approve a multi-faceted renovation of the No. 3 Course which will begin on August 15th and reopen next June. Included in the plan, which will bring the famed course up to the world class level its membership wants it to be for the 2012 Ryder Cup are the reconstruction of the 11 remaining soil-based push-up greens, the regrassing of all greens, regrassing all fairways and intermediate roughs, a cart path and hardscape improvement program, and a much-needed renovation and expansion of the golf course maintenance facility. Good luck with this ambitious renovation, Curtis.

.....  
 Recently one of our most distinguished and recognizable members celebrated a milestone. **John Ekstrom** of Hinsdale Golf Club, whose musings can be found in the Assistant's View column of *Golf Course Industry* magazine turned 30, and his friends were kind enough to throw him a little party. The group, consisting of **Scott White** (Mauh-Nah-Tee-See Golf Club), **Matt Breeden** (Evanston Golf Club), **Joe Schneider** (Beverly Country Club), **Chad Kempf** (Epic Creative), **Andy Johnsen** (Arrowhead Golf Club), and **Scott Verdun** (Merit Club) enjoyed a great day of golf and good cheer at Prairie Bluff Golf Club, helping John cope with hitting this big milestone in his life. Wish I could remember what I did for my 30th...



.....  
*Happy 30th John.*  
 .....



.....  
*Oops!*  
 .....

The membership of MAGCS offers its heartfelt condolences to **Brian Winkel** (Syngenta Turf & Ornamental), his wife Jeune, and their family on the loss of Brian's father Vernon on June 4th; and to **Dave Louttit** (The Andersons), his wife Cheryl and their family on the passing of Dave's father Philip on May 22nd.

.....  
 Spotted in other publications: **Scott Hillyard**, the assistant superintendent at Lake Shore Country Club was cited in an article in the May issue of *Golf Course Industry* titled "Is Social Media Right for Your Career?" which focused on Scott's use of LinkedIn as a "virtual rolodex." Also in that same issue, **Dave Schlagetter, CGCS** of Indian Hill Club shared his technique for keeping the edges of his greens from shrinking in the "Incredible Shrinking Greens" article, and **Bob Lohmann** of Lohmann GOLF Designs, Inc. had his company's renovation of Westmoor Country Club in Brookfield, WI featured in an article titled "Long Time Coming." In June's GCM, **Jon Jennings, CGCS** (Chicago Golf Club)' competitive running exploits (first reported in these very pages) were highlighted in the Front Nine section; and Burris Equipment Company was recognized as Smithco's North American Distributor of the Year, with a photo that included **George O'Hara, Mike Thornton, John Maman, and Jake Vollbeer**. And finally, **Dr. Derek Settle's** article

*(continued on next page)*

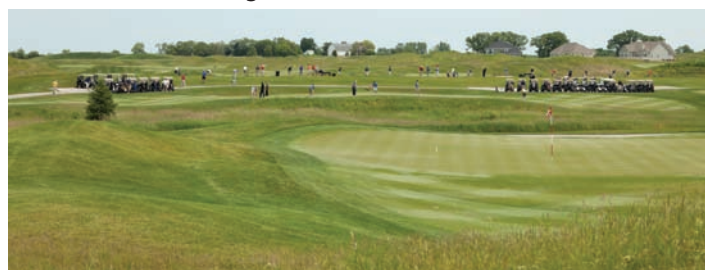
“Foliar Product Evaluation for Greens: Back to the Basics is a Good Thing” was reprinted in the *Green Breeze*, the official publication of the Greater Cincinnati GCSA in May. Congratulations to all of these notable MAGCS members.

.....

A full field of MAGCS members made its way to lovely Kenosha, WI on the 15th of June for the monthly meeting and golf event at the Club at Strawberry Creek. Host superintendent **Matt Kregel** and his staff had the course in US Open (or Member-Guest at the least) condition for the various championships that were contested on the ideal day. The trek north was well worth it, with two full meals, a unique education session, and 18 holes of golf winding through the spectacular **Rick Jacobson**-designed course. What a great opportunity to play this new gem! Everyone in attendance battled their opponents, the course, and in some case their own personal golf demons until the last men standing were crowned the victors. The winners of the Dom Grotti Tournament (Superintendent/Assistant championship) were **Justin VanLanduit** and **Moe Sanchez** of Briarwood CC, while **Dave Schlagetter, CGCS** and **Thom Irvin** of Indian Hill Club took a close second. This year's Class C Champion was Thom Irvin; the Senior Champion was **Al Pondel, CGCS** of Rockford CC; and our 2009 Super Senior Champion was **Bob Kronn** of Woodstock CC. Congratulations to all of you guys, and to everyone who competed. Also enormous thanks to Matt and all the people at Strawberry Creek, and lastly but not leastly we tip our caps to our sponsors for the day, who were **Arthur Clesen, Inc., Burris Equipment, John Deere Golf & JW Turf, Nadler Golf Car Sales, Inc./Authorized Club Car Distributor, Nels J. Johnson Tree Experts, Inc., Palatine Oil Company, Quali-Pro, Reinders, Inc., and Syngenta Turf & Ornamental.**



(L) MAGCS President Tony Kalina hands host Superintendent Matt Kregel his On Course cover shot.



The majestic new clubhouse as viewed from the 18th fairway.



*Roly-poly green complexes and undulating terrain were the flavor of the day.*



*Brian Winkel salutes the course in a "you've broken me and I give up" sort of way.*



*Another tee shot in the cabbage. "you've broken me and I give up" sort of way.*



*And that cabbage is a golf ball graveyard! Get it? See, there's a graveyard right there...*

*(continued on next page)*



*Thom Irvin wins the Class C Championship.*



*Moe Sanchez and Justin Vanlanduit take home the Grotti Cup.*



*Al Pondel won the Senior Championship at Strawberry Creek and took home the Bertucci trophy a week later.*



*Thom Irvin and Dave Schlagetter finish a close second in the Grotti Championship.*



*Bob Kronn couldn't believe he won the Super Senior Flight at Strawberry Creek.*





How coincidental that there's a strawberry patch right next door?

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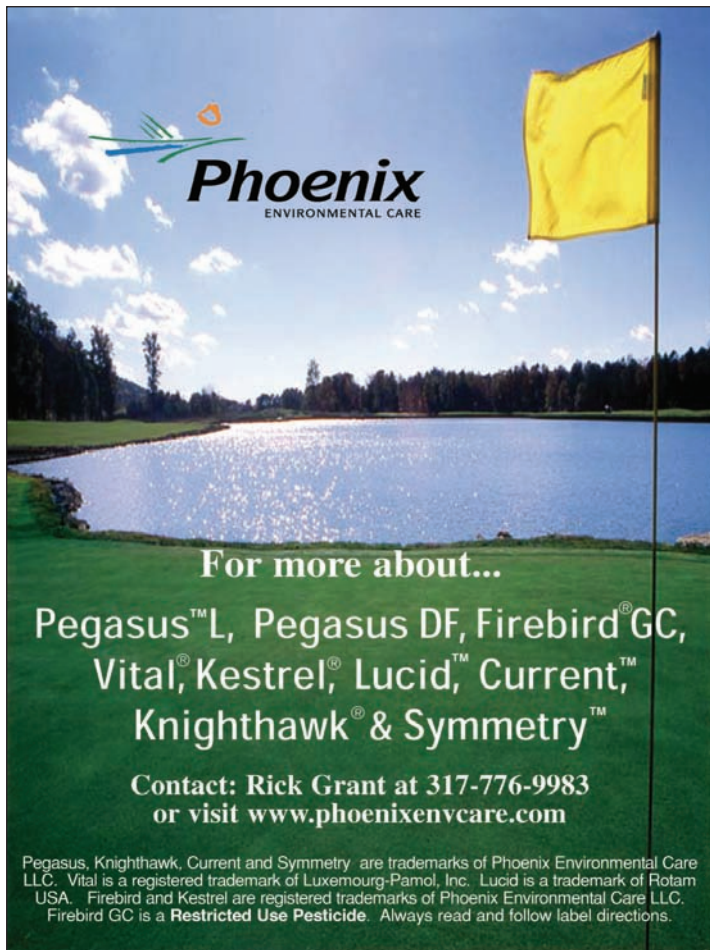
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# 2009 GCSAA compensation and benefits survey . . .

## The Results are In

*I recently sat in on a webcast for Chapter Executives led by Eric Neuteboom and Lyne Tumlinson, staffers at the GCSAA. Together they covered the results of the 2009 GCSAA Compensation and Benefits Survey. The most impressive part of the survey was the actual response rate which hit an all time high this year at 51.7%. The last time the survey was compiled was 2007 and the response rate was approximately 39%:*

A few interesting facts that were shared:

- Average age of all golf course superintendents: 44
- Average experience of all golf course superintendents: 13.5 years
- Average tenure at present course/club: 8.5 years (10.8 for CGCS)
- Average #employees supervised: 24 (up from 21 in 2007)
- Average salary trend for a golf course superintendent has increased by 6.9% since 2007

There are a few new items you will see in the 2009 report. Salaries are now presented not only by average and median but also by 10th, 25th, 50th, 75th and 90th percentile rank. For example, if the salary was \$56,000 at the 25th percentile, and there were 100 respondents, 25 of them would be below the salary of \$56,000 and the 75 would be above the salary of \$56,000. This statistic really helps you see how many people fall into a certain salary range.

Also new in 2009:

- Results are listed by region for areas of the country that don't have many respondents
- Results for golf course superintendents that oversee multiple facilities
- Data collected on health insurance benefits
- All respondents will have electronic access through the GCSAA website to the report for free, hard copies of the results are available for all respondents for \$15
- Non participating members may have access to the results online for \$125 or \$140 for a hard copy
- Non members may purchase the results for \$500

GCSAA feels it is important to continue this survey, even during our current economic times. Much work has gone into making certain the survey is accurate and reflects the current trends. One way this is accomplished is to use a statistical practice called a matched sample. GCSAA follows those who fill out the survey for consecutive years (2,546 golf course superintendents filled out the survey in 2007 and again in 2009) to "match" respondents for

trends to be identified. I filled out a survey when I completed my undergraduate degree in 1992. Since then, the US Department of Education (USDE) has sent me the same survey every four years to see where I am compared to the previous survey. This is the practice of using a matched sample to find trends over the course of time.

### Using the Results

GCSAA Members will use the results of the survey as another tool to:

- Justify their budgets
- Justify their salary
- Seek increases for themselves or for their staff
- Negotiate a starting salary, either for themselves or for their staff
- To see where they are within the market
- To see how their benefits compare to others

GCSAA uses the results of the survey to:

- Provide personalized salary reports for members
- Help determine whether jobs posted on the job board are viable
- Offer career counseling to those interested in a career in golf course management (high schools and other secondary education)
- Help reinforce the professional status of golf course superintendents

### One thing I didn't know...

GCSAA can create a personal report for you based on aggregate data from your specific region and position. It may help, when you need to justify your salary, to look at other methods of compensation (benefits, vacation, vehicle allowance, etc.). All data is kept in the strictest of confidence and anonymity is protected as stated within the survey results. For more information or a personalized report, you may contact Eric Neuteboom, Employer Programs Manager or Lyne Tumlinson, Director of Career Services at GCSAA. **-OC**



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## EDUCATION REVIEW

Charles Anfield, CGCS, *Heritage Bluffs Golf Course*



The June Meeting was hosted by Matt Kregel and held at The Club at Strawberry Creek, north of the border, in Kenosha Wisconsin. Peter Olson, Assistant Director at the Northern Illinois Art Museum, made a presentation on the Birds of Northern Illinois. Peter is an avid bird watcher and a talented artist. He spent the morning educational session sharing his love of birding and interpreting birds, through various mediums of art work. He presented a colorful slide show that featured many of the common birds we see every day. He had some great photos to share. I think we all recognized some of the birds and probably learned a few new ones. His art work was very creative. Some of it was realism, such as his photos and sketches. His other works such as his relief wood prints and collages were interpretive. A relief print is made by first carving the design into a sheet of wood. Ink is placed on the carving and paper is pressed to the wood and a print is made. Peter's presentation was a nice change of pace to the typical technical turf related topics we usually see. His enthusiasm was contagious and helped enhance our appreciation of the diversity and beauty of the birds in our region. We were fortunate to have Peter share his love of birds displayed through detailed photos and related art. It was a great start to a great day. More of Peter Olson's work can viewed at peterolsonbirds.com.

### DVD's of MAGCS Education, Luke Cella

Did you miss the education but really wanted to see it? Maybe you were present and wanted to share it with a staff member, committee member or supervisor? Now you can. MAGCS has begun to record our education events and now they are available to our members for a small fee (covers the cost of duplication and shipping).

Peter Olson's presentation was recorded and can be purchased for \$10. The fee structure is simple and is based upon the length of the education seminar. The charge is \$10 for the first hour and \$5 for each additional hour thereafter (e.g. a three hour presentation is \$20). Other educational DVD's can be purchased from the MAGCS as well. At present we have prepared:

- MAGCS 2008 August Meeting – Herb Stevens "Global Warming" 1 hour
- 2008 Turf Clinic – (2 Disc Set) Kay McKeen "Water and Energy Conservation" 1 hour, Jim Moore, USGA "Evolution of Golf Course Management" 1.5 hours & John Walton "New Alternative Fuels" 1 hour
- MAGCS 2009 January Meeting – Aaron Johnsen "Measurement Technology" 1.5 hours
- MAGCS 2009 March Meeting – (2 Disc Set) Dr. Megan Kennelly "Moss Development" & Dr. Derek Settle "Evaluation of Cytokinin-Plant Extract, Iron, and Nitrogen Product for their Effects on Bentgrass Greens" 1.5 hours. Keith Rincker "Fungicide Programming for Fairways", Dr. Megan Kennelly "Nozzle Selection and Fungicide Evaluation" & Ty McClellan "USGA TruFirm Device / Methyl Bromide Update" 1.5 hours

GCSAA Education points are available for these recordings and can be applied to your point history up to one year after the date of the original presentation, just by watching the video. If you would like to order a video, please call the MAGCS office 630-243-7900 or visit the MAGCS website in the member's only area. **-OC**



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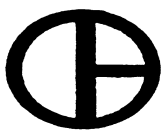
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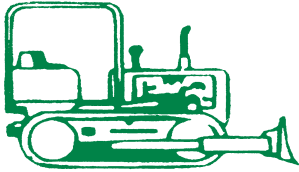
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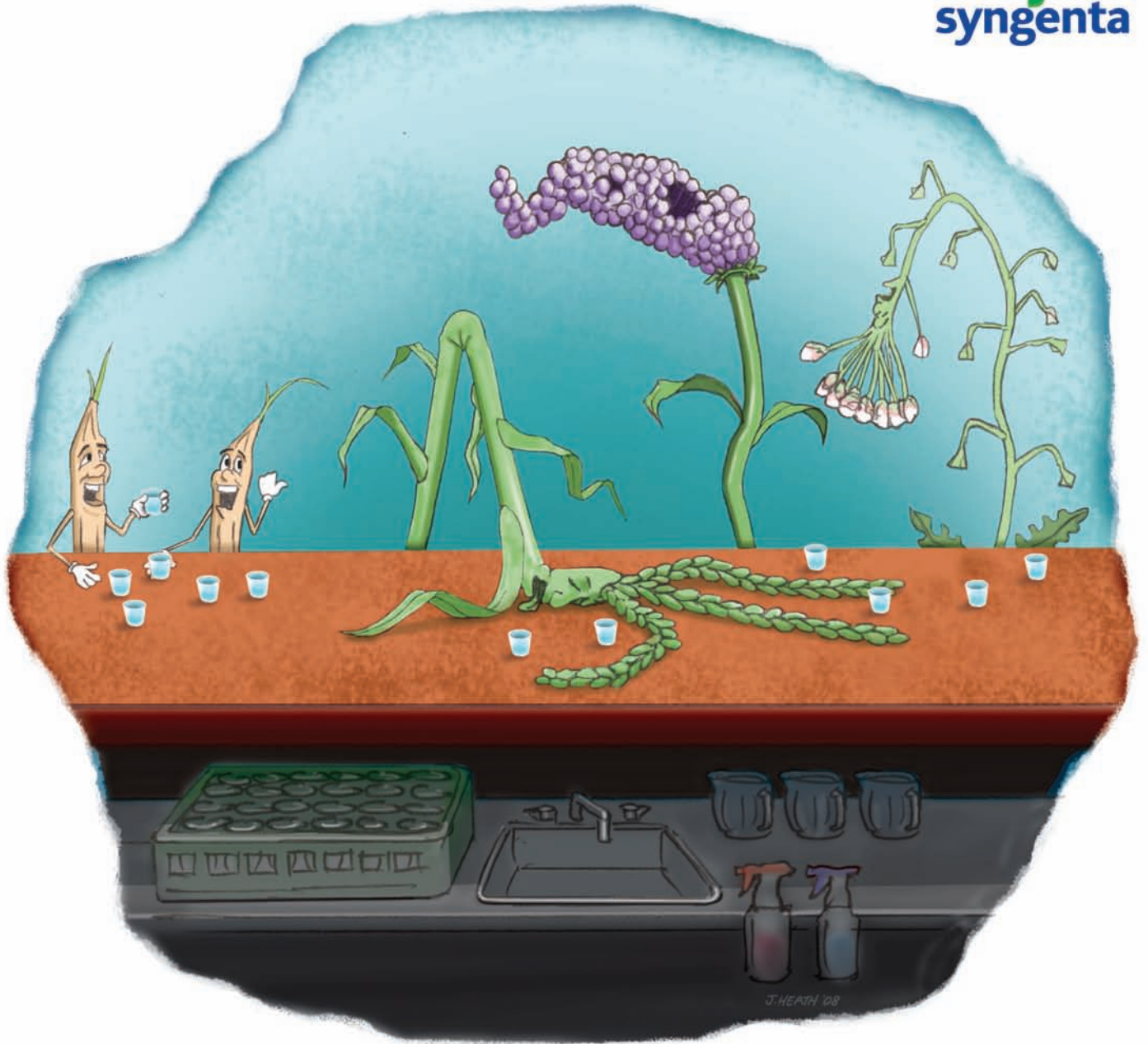


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