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December 2010



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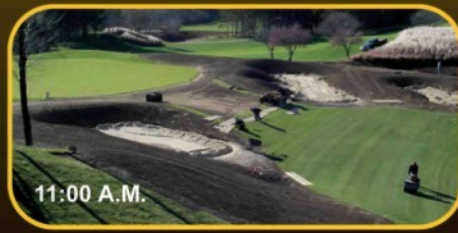
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The 2011 Midwest Board of Directors (l to r) Ed Braunsky, Bob Kohlstedt, Jim Keith, Chuck Barber, Dan Sterr, Nick Baker and Dave Groelle. (Not pictured: Mike Mumper, Dave Kohley, John Nelson, Joe Schneider, Luke Cella)
Photo credit: Luke Cella

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The Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents (MAGCS), founded December 24, 1926, is a professional organization whose goals include preservation and dissemination of scientific and practical knowledge pertaining to golf turf maintenance. We endeavor to increase efficiency and economic performance while improving and enhancing the individual and collective prestige of the members.

The MAGCS member is also an environmental steward. We strive to uphold and enhance our surroundings by promoting flora and fauna in every facet in a manner that is beneficial to the general public now and in the future.

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ON COURSE WITH THE PRESIDENT

Dan Sterr, Stonebridge Country Club



Throwing Rocks out of Bunkers

It is both an honor and a privilege to be selected as the President of the Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents. I remember working at Springbrook Golf Course in the late '70s, when I was in high school. I read the "Bull Sheet" that my boss, Bill Walsh, had in his office. I remember thinking "wow" this is really some neat stuff. The important people in our business are the President, Vice-President, Secretary/Treasurer and Directors of an Association; they must be really important. Never in a million years did I think I would be one of those guys. I remember my first day of work at Springbrook in the fall of 1977. I was sent out to rake bunkers and given the five-minute instruction on how to use the Sand Pro. I proceeded to rake the bunkers. On the 6th hole I was doing my thing with the Sand Pro when I came across a large rock. I picked it up and threw it out of the bunker into the rough. There was a guy mowing rough at the time. From a distance, he had seen what I did, and came over to the bunker. He kindly explained to me that it was not a good idea to throw the rock into the rough, that the rock could damage the mower he was pulling behind the tractor. That guy was a Past President of the Midwest Association, Joel Purpur. Thanks, Joel, for taking that job at Naperville Country Club when you did, because that allowed me to have my first job on a golf course. From that time on, I knew that I wanted to be a Golf Course Superintendent.

We all entered this profession for a reason. Some of us because we love the game of golf; some because we like to be outdoors; some because we like to grow things; some because we thought it would be really neat to drive the cool equipment that they used on the course. I'm sure there are hundreds of other reasons, but the one thing that I believe everyone has for this profession is passion. In this profession, we all make sacrifices: weekend work, early mornings, late nights, meetings that sometimes last into the wee hours of the morning, but we do what we do because we have a passion for it. How many of us have had employees that expressed an interest in working on a golf course, but after the first few weekends of early mornings they don't want to work on a golf course anymore? We stayed because we are passionate about what we do, and we care about what we do. We're all very proud of our facilities, and we should be. Every now and then, Mother Nature reminds us who is really in charge. But after a couple of months of down time, and I use that term loosely, we are always ready to tackle a new season. How many of us are really excited in spring, when we mow greens for the first time? I know I am. Sure we all have times when things aren't going well, or when the weather deals

us an event that is not so kind. We think, "Why am I doing this," "why did I enter this profession?" But at the end of the day, the end of a season, we all reflect back and realize why we do what we do. I have been lucky to be involved with the Board of Directors since April of 2005. I can honestly say that everyone I served with has had a true commitment and passion for the Midwest and the profession. I would like to encourage everyone to be active in your association, whether it be serving on a committee, hosting a monthly meeting, or attending a monthly meeting.

Mother Nature certainly delivered us a blow this year. She reminded us of how humbling this profession can be. We have some down time. I encourage everyone to reflect on this past season, spend some time with your families during the holidays, recharge the batteries, and come out ready for the 2011 season. **-OC**



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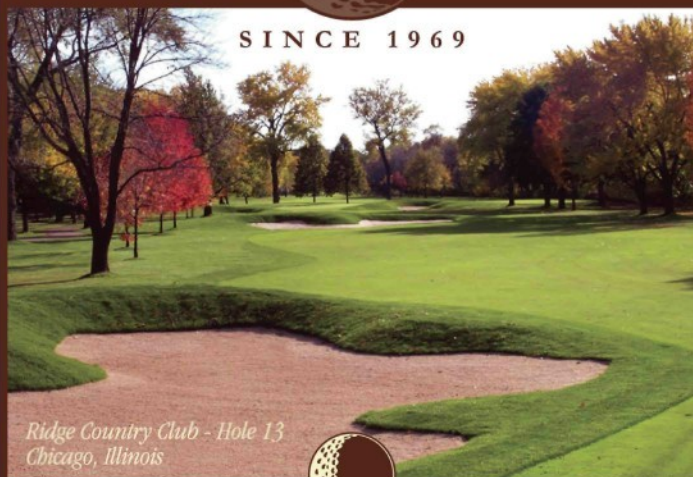


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FEATURE I

Nick Marfise, *Park Ridge Country Club*

Irrigation Demo Hole



The hot weather this August through October was a good argument for a new irrigation system. With the economy the way it is, spending a few million dollars on a completely new irrigation system may not be feasible. Collaboration with Liebold Irrigation, Inc., and Rain Bird® has allowed Park Ridge Country Club to be the first golf course in the Chicagoland area to have the newest technology in golf course irrigation.

A single golf hole at Park Ridge will feature the new Rain Bird® Integrated Control system (IC system™), which was installed using HDPE pipe. Using the existing mainlines on the course, a 3-row fairway design was installed, upgrading from our old 2-row system. There will also be an increase in tee, rough, and bunker sprinkler heads. The design for the green and perimeter heads remains the same. There will be an increase in isolation valves and ground faulting as well. Rain Bird's IC modules were compatible with our current drip irrigation valves, so steep-faced bunkers can now be programmed from our central computer.

Rain Bird's IC system eliminates field satellites and miles of underground wire. The system uses a single Maxi wire running directly from the central computer to each individual sprinkler head, simplifying communication. The IC module, located on the irrigation head in place of the solenoid, does

the job of both the solenoid and the field satellites. Direct communication to each head offers state-of-the-art troubleshooting and installation. Rain Bird's IC system is similar to other decoder type irrigation systems on the market in both function and quality. Faced with many choices, we decided to go with Rain Bird's new technology for this project. Research was key in finding the right system for our facility.

Replacing heads that were 90 feet on center with heads that are now on 65 foot centers will lower water costs. This reduction is due to accurate sprinkler coverage and better water management. With better water distribution and coverage we water the fairway less often, which increases playability. We can achieve a firmer fairway, which will allow for more ball roll. Precision watering creates less inconvenience and frustration

(continued on next page)





because it requires less day-time syringing and hand watering. Better coverage creates greater consistency and healthier turf, resulting in less dead *Poa annua*.

Our decision to install the Rain Bird® IC system™ gives us state-of-the-art benefits in design, technology, and hardware. It offers troubleshooting from the central computer. With a click of the mouse you can see, on your computer screen, the health of the IC modules and the voltage running to each head. Because the maxi wire is the only communication wire on the course, you have the ability to tap right into the maxi wire to add additional sprinklers to the golf course. You no longer have to run wires from the computer, to the satellites, and then back to the sprinkler heads themselves.

By installing the system using HDPE pipe, we gain other benefits. It is much stronger than traditional PVC and less liable to damage from shifting or settling ground, heavy equipment haul roads, freezing and thawing, etc. Fewer pipe breaks means less risk of shut down for repairs, which can be critical during hot weather conditions.

Finally, this project offers other benefits. It gives the membership a chance to see the installation process on a single hole and to compare the course improvements prior to a full-scale investment. With better water coverage, the installation allows us to create and implement a *Poa annua* control program. Eliminating *Poa annua* and introducing a higher percentage of bentgrass in our fairways gives us both long-term and short-term agronomic benefits. **-OC**

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FEATURE II

Chuck Barber, *Indian Lakes Resort*

Medinah Country Club's Newest Asset



The new front entrance of Medinah Country Club's Turf Care Facility.

Just in case you thought that Curtis Tyrrell, CGCS, and the staff at Medinah Country Club didn't have enough to do during the summer of 2010, they also managed to squeeze in completion of a new maintenance building. There are many local Medinah Country Club alums who remember the good old days and the way the maintenance building used to be. It hadn't changed all that much since those good old days. Curtis and the members realized an upgrade was in order.

The staff decommissioned and moved out of the old maintenance facility in June of 2009. Construction of the new facility began later in the fall. The primary goal was to stay within the footprint of the existing maintenance building and cold storage area. The cold storage area could be expanded, but moving the entire operation to a completely different site on Medinah's property would have proven too difficult and expensive. During construction, the grounds department was staged at Medinah's new skeet range overlooking Lake Kadajah. Then, for a short time, they were in office trailers until the maintenance building re-opened in June of 2010.

The old maintenance building had several shortcomings in relation to the demands of today's golf course maintenance. First, material handling, equipment washing, cold storage, and equipment maintenance space were all in short supply. Second, office space for the management staff and space to house 54-holes worth of irrigation computers was also sorely lacking. Finally, facilities for Medinah's staff were in need of attention.

New bins were installed to handle materials needed on a daily basis including mulch, two different types of bunker sand, topdressing sand, and divot mix. This might be a lot of material handling capacity, but Curtis feels that more is needed. There is a plan in place to add more bins to the concrete footprint of "The Hacienda," Medinah's former dormitory for associates, which was demolished in 2008.

The equipment washing station has an interesting design. The water comes from the irrigation pond and drains into two basins on the pad. Sump pumps then push the water into two large tanks equipped with filter socks to collect grass clippings

and debris. Then the wash water is pumped through another in-line filter and down a rock bed before re-entering Lake Kedijah. The clippings and debris are currently harvested and put into landscape waste containers, but composting this material on-site is an option they intend to explore. Medinah felt that this mechanical system was easier to operate and maintain, because it provides a cost effective alternative to some of the recycled wash pad systems that are currently available.



*The wash pads drum and basin system at Medinah Country Club.
(continued on next page)*



The filter socks inside each drum

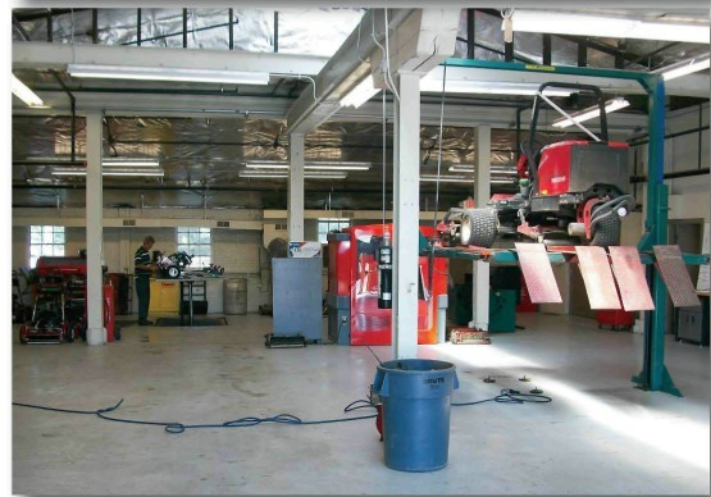
The cold storage building was demolished and rebuilt at 20,000 square feet in order to accommodate the equipment fleet. Again, it is in the same location as the former storage building. Expanding the original space proved effective and a much better option than moving the entire facility.



Medinah's new 20,000 square foot storage facility

The former shop and office space is now dedicated to equipment maintenance. There, the staff of four mechanics grind, sharpen, service, weld and otherwise pound away on all that iron to keep equipment running at all three courses.

The office space for Curtis' staff also fit inside the footprint of the former maintenance facility and its storage space. The improvements include a professional style reception area, offices for each course superintendent, one room dedicated to irrigation central computers for all three courses, and a conference room for team meetings.



The reception area for Medinah's Turf Care Center



Course Three Superintendent Dave Kloss enjoying his office



The irrigation computer room for all three courses



Ice machines, refrigerators, microwaves, soda machines and PLENTY of coffee machines round out the break room



The conference room for staff and member meetings

As you might imagine, Medinah's staff is quite big during the peak golf season. Where, you might ask, do all those people eat lunch, or where do you have morning meetings for all three courses, or where can you communicate at one time with the entire staff? All of those things can happen in their new break room. One of the best features, in my opinion, is a large common area for lunch breaks that has dividers. Each course can have their morning meeting, but the dividers can be pulled back to accommodate the entire staff for lunch or for getting the entire department together. Further, they have a locker room with assigned lockers for each associate.



Assigned lockers for each and every one of Medinah's staff



The break room with dividers for each course

The final price tag for the entire project: permitting, design, demolition, construction, FF&E (furniture, furnishings and equipment), and everything else was \$1.8 million. This is a significant savings over other plans that called for the maintenance building to be moved to a completely different site on the property. For those of you in MAGCS looking to renovate, rebuild, or build a new shop, one of the stops you might make on your tour of area facilities is Medinah Country Club. **-OC**



Couple quick reminders from GCSAA. First, you already should have received an email (or several) regarding the Member Needs Assessment survey currently being conducted. It contains a link to a survey that doesn't take very long at all to complete, and could help the association plan for the future in many important areas. Plus you get .25 service points for participating. Second, the biennial Compensation and Benefits survey is on its way to your PC if not already there. This survey generates valuable demographic information that in the end gets you laughed at when using it to try for a raise, but it's still fun to see the results, and you only get to see them if you take part. Oh, and you get another .25 Service Points for this one, too, which is nice.

While we're here, GCSAA President James R. Fitzroy, CGCS recently announced a reorganization of the association's programs and services, along with some significant staff cuts. Among those leaving are Bonnie Stephenson, a 36-year employee who held a variety of positions with the association, most recently serving as director of conference events and meeting planning. Teri Harris, the Director of Development for the Environmental Institute for Golf departs after 20 years, as does 14-year Editor-in-Chief of GCM Ed Hiscock and 9-year director of research Clark Throssel, Ph.D.

Surely you are familiar with the Sunshine Through Golf Foundation and the wonderful work they do for people with mental and physical challenges as well as disabled veterans.

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DATES TO REMEMBER

December 3 – Annual West Side Holiday Party at Seven Bridges Golf Club in Woodridge, IL, **Don Ferreri** and **Dave Gelino** hosts.

December 6 – Annual South Side Superintendents Holiday Party at Chef Klaus Bier Stube in Frankfort, IL. **Eddie Esgar** and **Keith Peterson** are once again hosting the event.

December 6-9 – Ohio Turf Conference and Show at the Greater Columbus Convention Center in Columbus, OH. Go to www.ohioturfgrass.org for info.

December 14-15 – ITF Winter Education Days at Midwest Golf House in Lemont, IL. www.illinoisturfgrassfoundation.org

January 5-7 – Northern Green Expo at the Minneapolis Convention Center in Minneapolis, MN. For info, go to www.northerngreenexpo.org.

January 10-12 – Great Lakes Trade Exposition at the DeVos Center in Grand Rapids, MI. Visit www.glte.org for details.

January 14 – Deadline for submissions to *Golf, Inc.*'s Annual Clubhouse of the Year competition. Yes, there is actually a "clubhouse of the year" competition, but it only applies to clubhouses opened between January 1, 2009 and December 1, 2010. Whole buncha those around here, huh?

January 18-20 – 2011 Iowa Turfgrass Conference & Trade Show at the Polk Convention Complex & Marriott Hotel in Des Moines, IA. Try www.iowaturfgrass.org for more info.

January 19 – MAGCS January Meeting and Wee One Fundraiser – Seven Bridges Golf Club, Don Ferreri and Dave Gelino hosts.

January 19-20, – Mid-Am Expo in Chicago, IL. Visit www.midam.org to learn more.

February 4-6 – The 61st GCSAA National Championship and Golf Classic presented in partnership with The Toro Co. in Palm Beach, FL.

February 7-11 – GCSAA Education Conference in Orlando, FL.



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The foundation has announced a new way to become involved—the Commemorative Brick Program at the Midwest Golf House. This program allows people to purchase personalized bricks in two different sizes (4x8 and 8x8 inches) to be installed adjacent to the front entrance of Golf House. To learn more about this tax-deductible program, go to www.sunshinethroughgolf.org, or you can contact Alex Nolly at 630-685-2351 or anolly@cdga.org.

Congratulations to Tina and **Chuck Barber**, whose family just got a lot bigger after the birth of their second child on November 22nd. The Barbers were blessed with a daughter, Molly Michelle, who popped into the world at 7 lbs., 12 ozs., and 21 inches long. And then came the inlaws, and thus the MUCH bigger family.



Molly Michelle Barber

The MAGCS 2011 dues renewal is underway, and anything you can do to expedite your membership renewal will allow your association to continue to offer you the finest in association thingies. It will also allow us to pay bills and Bull Sheet writers, so please either follow the link on one of those emails you get, or go to magcs.org and figure it out. I thank you. My family thanks you. Our creditors thank you. You get the picture.

Oh, and ditto for ITF—please renew your membership ASAP.

Leave it to MAGCS members to lead the way once again. We reported previously that GCSAA was holding the TurfWars: Battle of the Budgets Video Contest and that the deadline for submissions was November 30th. Turns out that two of the first three submissions came from our own **Dan Dinelli, CGCS** of North Shore Country Club and **John Ekstrom** of Hinsdale Golf Club. Their videos can be viewed at GCSAA TV (go to gcsaa.org and click on the link), but in a nutshell, Dan's "Keep Cart Revenue Rolling" described his efforts to pay extra attention to cart wear areas in order to allow carts to remain in use even if conditions are not favorable for it. John's video, titled "Visual Improvement Program," details HGC's program that standardizes 12 different maintenance areas to create expectations and improve maintenance practices through ratings, charts, and photos. Way to go, trendsetters!

Congratulations to Martin Implementation Sales, Inc. on celebrating their Grand Re-Opening and 65th Anniversary on November 4th and 5th at their South Elgin location.

If you are a smartphone user and are attending the Golf Industry Show in Orlando in February, there is an application that will streamline your experience. Golf Industry Show Connection has a whole bunch of cool tools to make your show experience the best it can be. It's available for iPhone, Android, Blackberry, and any smartphone that has web-browser capability. Ask your smartphone how to download the app. Not while you're driving, though.

The Chicagoland Association of Golf Course Superintendents (CAGCS) held its Annual Meeting on November 11th at its traditional location—The Oak Park Country Club with **Al Fierst** serving as host. At this meeting, the annual election of officers was held, and the board of directors for 2011 is made up of the following individuals: President—**Dan Marco, CGCS**; Vice President—**Dave Ward**; Treasurer—**Jeff VerCautren**; Secretary—**Jeff Frenz, CGCS**; Directors—**Don Cross, CGCS** and **Dave Radaj, CGCS**. Immediate Past President is **Tommy Witt, CGCS**. Congratulations to these gentlemen.

The November 3rd issue of GOLF WEEK magazine featured another of those lists we all aspire to be on (no, not the list of Jennifer Anniston's exes). The 2011 GOLF WEEK'S Best Resort Courses list included a few of MAGCS' own, with **Vinny Dodge, CGCS** and The Wilderness at Fortune Bay in Tower, MN coming in at #43; Eagle Ridge Resort & Spa's The General course (**Tom Tully, CGCS**) ranked 91st; and The Glen Club and **Scott Goniwiecha** edging in at 98th. Congrats, guys!

Making another one of those lists was The Chicago Highlands Club and **Michael Heustis**, whose 344-yard ninth hole made *Golf Digest's* 2010 Golf Hole of the Year as part of the magazine's list of Best New Courses. The hole is shaped like a volcano, up a steady rise from the tee to a hilltop green surrounded by slopes of tightly-mowed turf. So basically it's like hitting a ball onto the top of a Hershey's Kiss, where if you miss the mark, your ball rolls 60 yards down, either toward you or away from you. Ouch!

Also caught in print was an article in the October issue of *Club & Resort Business* magazine titled "Putting Down—and Bringing Up—Proper Roots" featuring Naperville Country Club's **Tim Anderson, CGCS, MG** and **Dan Dinelli, CGCS** of North Shore Country Club. The article detailed the turf varieties Tim used in his recent renovation at NCC, along with Dan's work with the National Turfgrass Evaluation Program (NTEP) at North Shore. Definitely worth a read—nice work, Tim and Dan.

This item was "stolen" from *Verdure*—the official publication of CAGCS. It seems that earlier this season at Coyote Run Golf Course, a part-time employee named Dave had a little "brain-fart" much like we've all seen on our own courses, forgetting to set the parking brake on a sand rake. Here is the result...

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Again, nothing new and different, except for the post-booboo treatment this guy's boss **Dave Ward** inflicted upon him. Not only did he ask the employee to go back in the pond and pose for this photo, he also held a caption contest

among all the Homewood-Flossmoor full-time employees, with judging being done by a couple ladies who work in the Park District's main office. Lesson here: If you screw up while working for Dave, just leave the machine where it ended up and run away, never to return. Oh, and the winning caption? A beauty: "Trying to impress a foursome of female golfers who were putting out on the 16th green, Dave flexes his biceps, sucks in his gut and drives the bunker rake into the pond."

A true icon of golf in Chicagoland celebrated a huge milestone last month when Samuel Henry "Errie" Ball was guest of honor at his 100th birthday party. Errie Ball left his native Wales over 75 years ago at the behest of his friend Bobby Jones to come to Georgia to play in the first Augusta National invitation tournament. He is now the lone survivor of the 72 men who played in the first of what would be known for the rest of history as The Masters. Throughout his impressive career, Mr. Ball played in over 50 Majors, including 20 U.S. Opens, 18 PGA Championships, and he dominated the Illinois PGA Section during his long tenure at several Chicagoland clubs including 30 years as teaching pro at Oak Park Country Club followed by 27 years at Butler National. Amazingly, when this guy shoots his age these days, he considers it a bad round. Happy Birthday from MAGCS to Errie Ball—a legend and an inspiration.

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Samuel Henry "Errie" Ball

So. Is the Big Boy nothing more than a classic American fast food icon, or is it really **Mark Petitgoue** in funny pants schlepping lunch? You be the judge...



Buy your fertilizer now. The USDA's corn forecast—recently adjusted downward 3.6 percent—caused a ripple effect that could be felt in our business and others that rely on nitrogen-based fertilizers. The thinking is this—the forecast sent corn futures soaring to near \$6 per bushel, a price that encourages farmers to plant more corn, which in turn requires increased nutrients. That means the jump in worldwide demand for nitrogen increases costs to fertilizer producers. Just thought I'd give you a little holiday cheer.

Speaking of fertilizer producers, the Lebanon Turf 2011 Dog Days of Golf Calendar is out, and we are more than well-represented. The stars of December, 2010 are **Erwin McKone's** Barney and Ralphie, and July, 2011's poster-child is **Dan Dinelli's** Chesapeake Bay retriever Coco. Cast your ballot for the 8th Annual Dog of the Year Contest at the Lebanon Turf booth (#953) at the Golf Industry Show in Orlando and you might just help get Lebanon to donate \$3,000 to MAGCS, along with \$500 to the winner's local Humane Society. Let's get it done!



Coco, North Shore Country Club's entry into the dog calendar.



Barney and Ralphie
Briar Ridge Country Club
Owner: Erwin McKone

Barney and Ralphie from Briar Ridge Country Club made the 2011 calendar too.

Guest writer and new dad Chuck Barber has the following synopsis of the day at Medinah for our 58th Midwest Turf Clinic and Annual Meeting:

Wednesday November 3rd was the 58th Annual Midwest Turf Clinic and Annual Meeting. My favorite part is the food and the breakfast and lunch didn't disappoint. **Curtis Tyrrell, CGCS** of Medinah Country Club was our host and it was a great day. MAGCS Past President **Scott Witte, CGCS**, started off the day wrapping up 2010's MAGCS events as well as a brief talk about the state of the association: "We're doing OK". Couldn't have put it better myself.

Andy Perry, non-CGCS assistant superintendent from Black Sheep Golf Club, was the A.M. moderator and led the discussion with first year superintendents **Scott Verdun** of Kenosha Country Club, **Ben McGargill** of Wynstone Golf Club and **Nick Leu** of Blackstone Golf Club. I for one found it very comforting that although 2010 was a difficult year for a variety of reasons all three rookie superintendents relied on their past experiences and were prepared as best they could be for tough situations. All three panelists shared a variety of thoughts on how they were able to manage their golf facilities in 2010.

OK, all these guys are certified so I'm skipping with the acronym, got it? **Jeff Frentz** of Lake Shore Country Club, **Henry Michna** of Winnetka Golf Club and **Dave Ward** of Coyote

(continued on next page)

Run Golf Club spoke about the variety of ways they communicate electronically for their jobs. Henry's blog (<http://wgcsuperintendent.blogspot.com/>) combined golf course and wildlife information, some course care tips and tidbits about the goings-on at Winnetka Golf Club. Dave Ward shared his page on the Flossmoor Park District's web site (<http://www.coyoterungolf.com/courseconditions.html>) and he incorporates course conditioning with Dave's signature wit, wisdom and some other thing that begins with "W". Jeff Frenz didn't share anything cool like pictures or web sites but he did key us in to the most important part of the discussion that overwhelming anyone with emails or electronic communications too frequently dilutes the message: "I have something to say and I just say it". Well done, Jeff.

After lunch (I remember mentioning the lunch) The Fred Opperman Award given to the best article written by someone who ISN'T a golf course superintendent was presented. Congratulations to Naperville Country Club's **Steven Biehl** on winning the award for his article "The Superintendent's Five-Foot Shelf." The Ray Gerber Editorial Award—given to the best superintendent-written article—is typically presented at the Clinic; however, there was not a sufficient number of entries this year. Hello! Start writing, guys! **Donald Ferreri** gave a chapter delegate update that basically said the GCSAA was going to raise dues \$20, the CEO search continues, and Donald LOVES going to Kansas. After Don's riveting update **Vence Zolman** received his 25 year recognition pin. Congratulations and thanks for the support all these years, Vence.

Scott Witte then awarded not one but TWO Meritorious Service Awards to **Tony Kalina** of Prairie Landing Golf Club and MAGCS Executive Director, **Luke Cella**. Tony served the MAGCS board for 8 years and the association itself for much longer and we all owe Tony and Luke a debt of gratitude for their hard work on our behalf. Thank you for your service.

Luke Cella then dove straight into the world of social networking and how we as an association, we as members of the association, and we as individuals network together. The number of people involved in Facebook, Twitter, Classmates, etc is truly staggering and it illustrates how fast the way we interact with one another is changing (www.facebook.com/pages/magcs/381056766906). Gary Campbell and Russ Blogg (not BLOG, blog, but Blogg) of AgriEnergy Resources, followed up Luke's presentation with some interesting thoughts on soil microbiology, beneficial fungi and bacteria and ways to improve organic matter content. Most interesting in their presentation was a minor increase in organic matter can provide dramatic increases in soil nutrients that could potentially save fertilizer inputs as OM increases. Got all that?

Dan Roan, WGN-TV's sports director and anchor shared some of his experiences with the group for the Keynote Address. In Dan's words he owes his career in sports casting and much of his personal life to golf. Growing up in Keokuk, Iowa Dan competed against future PGA Tour star D.A. Weibring and was good enough to receive a golf scholarship to Illinois State. He fell into broadcasting on accident on a Christmas break at ISU and it's been full steam ahead ever since. He shared some

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stories about playing golf in Iceland.....all day and all night, memories of Walter Payton and the Jordan Bulls and a life in golf. It was a great wrap-up to a terrific day. Thanks to one and all for contributing, hosting and attending.

The annual election also took place at the Clinic, and your Board of Directors for 2011 is comprised of the following dedicated (and crazy) individuals: **Dan Sterr**, President; **Bob Kohlstedt**, Vice President; **Jim Keith**, CGCS Secretary/Treasurer; Directors **Mike Mumper**, **Dave Groelle**, **CGCS**, **John Nelson**, **Dave Kohley**, and **Chuck Barber** (big Chuck Barber month, no?), and **Scott Witte**, **CGCS** who now takes the much-coveted title of "Immediate Past President." Congratulations/condolences and most importantly, thanks to all of these guys. Also, thank you to outgoing Directors **Dan Charlton**, **Mark Thibault**, and **Mike Siefken** for their valued service to our association.



Jan Jarvis started the day singing the Star Spangled Banner, a new tradition at the Midwest Turf Clinic.



Vence Zolman is awarded with his 25-year membership pin. Congratulations Vence.



Scott Witte awards Tony Kalina with the 2010 Presidential Award for Service to the Association.



Bob Kohlstedt awards Steven Biehl with the 2010 Fred Opperman Editorial Award.



Newest board member Chuck Barber has no idea what is ahead of him.

(continued on next page)





-OC



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EDUCATION RECAP

Charles Anfield, CGCS, *Heritage Bluffs Golf Course*



58th Midwest Turf Clinic

The MAGCS Members met on a warm November day for the 58th Annual Midwest Turf Clinic. The meeting was hosted by Curtis Tyrell, CGCS at Medinah Country Club. Jan Jarvis of Master of the Links Inc. began the day with a rousing live performance of our National Anthem. After Dave Marquardt of Dirt-n-Turf led an invocation, MAGCS President Scott Witte started the Meeting with a "Year in Review". Scott reviewed the MAGCS Board goals for the year.

- Streamline Board and Committees
- Videotape all meetings
- Evaluation of calendar event schedule
- Introduction of Midwest Core Company Sponsorship Program
- "Get the message out" with Golf and the Environment PR effort
- Ramp up Member involvement
- Partner with ITF and Big Par 3 Contest

Scott commented on the Class C Advisory Committee, "I'm very proud of their efforts and overall involvement".

Andrew Perry, Assistant at Black Sheep Club was the moderator for the morning educational sessions.

"**It's Just Different This Year**" was the theme for the round table discussion of MAGCS's newest, first year Superintendents. Featured speakers included: Nick Leu of Blackstone Golf Club, Ben McGargill of Wynstone Golf Club and Scott Verdun of Kenosha Country Club.

It was a rough year to "get started" as a Golf Course Superintendent. The weather issues were huge and learning a new course maintenance nuances, can be tricky in an "easy year". They all worked long hours to make it through the season. The guys commented on their first years experiences.

Nick: "I wanted to prove what I could do to our GM and owners. I found myself extremely conservative in my approaches to turf maintenance. I didn't feel like I was in a position to take chances. I did have some frustration with communications. Sometimes I wished I had thicker skin. The most rewarding thing was hearing nice comments about the golf course conditions."

Scott: "When I arrived, the course was covered in ice. I had some nervous apprehension. I just jumped right into it. I do need to be more firm with my agronomic practices. The biggest mistakes I made were when I second guessed myself. I need to trust my instincts".

Ben: "I had a big learning curve in annual bed landscape maintenance and design. I also had to adjust my turf management practices and learn how to handle the reclaimed water issues. I wish I had played more golf and practiced more as an Assistant. I'm getting more opportunities to play now with the

Members. The hardest part of the job this year was convincing the people with the money that the practices I proposed were the right thing to do".

The new Superintendents got their feet "wet" this year dealing with the extreme weather conditions, new paper work adventures and pressure from golfers and owners. Every day was a new challenge and learning experience, not the easiest year to be a rookie. Welcome to the "club".

The next session was titled; **It's a Different Language – Part 1**. Several MAGCS veterans discussed their usage of communication technologies. The speakers were: Henry Michna, CGCS of Winnetka Golf Club, Dave Ward of Coyote Run Golf Club and Jeff Frentz, CGCS of Lakeshore Country Club.

Henry led off by going online and showing us his blog. He briefly went over how to set one up. He updates his blog twice a week. He shared experiences with some of the feedback he has received. Henry believes it increases loyalty to the Club through fans and followers. "It's a great tool to help explain our golf maintenance perspective. If we don't do it, someone else will". Henry's blog is integrated with Face Book and the course's website.

Dave took the podium next and went through some of his blogs, also accessed through the course's website. Dave shared some of the witty and humorous blogs he has written. Dave's blog started out with the main focus being on course conditions. Now it has evolved into being more educational, humorous, entertainment, weather, projects, lawn care advice and project work. "I write about 15 minutes per day, it gives me satisfaction and lets me show my creativity".

Jeff came up and made his presentation about his blog. "It's a great form of communication. My goal was to reach my Membership and effectively touch on subjects I want to discuss and to help them understand. I like to keep it simple. I've found that if it is shorter, the more important it seems and the more likely they will read it". Jeff uses his blog to document projects and maintenance practices. Jeff closed his comments with this advice "make sure you have time to dedicate to a blog and know who you are reaching".

After lunch, our very own MAGCS Executive Director and self proclaimed “nerd” Luke Cella, CGCS took the podium and presented on **It’s a Different Language – Part 2**. Luke’s presentation was an informative overview of the numerous social networking technologies. The internet has connected millions of people all over the world 24/7 and continues to grow. There are many different sites available. They are popular because they are free, easy to use and connect people to people. Most sites have some interdependency where people share something in common. They help map out and organize relationships that we couldn’t do alone. Each person has their own connectivity based on *their* relationships. People join groups of similar interests or “likes” or “friends”. A social network can help you brand yourself, engage people of like interests, inform and educate. You can post and receive messages within that network.

Luke shared some amazing statistics.

- 50% of users are less than 30 years old
- 96% of users were born between 1975 and 2010
- 1 in 8 couples that are married, met using a social network site

“Facebook” is one of the more common social networking sites. You enter your data or profile into the site. Facebook then shares your information within their network to connect you to “friends”. They make their money off selling ads. It’s a great way to make new friends and connect with old friends. Use caution with this one, they do share everything you share. Ask Gold Medal Olympic Swimmer, Michael Phelps about this draw back. Facebook currently has ½ billion users, uses 5 billion minutes on line each day and continues to grow. They even made a movie about it.

“Linked In” website is considered to be of a more professional nature but functions on the same premise.

Twitter is a “real time” information networking tool that connects you to what you find interesting. It’s considered a “micro blog” in that that it only allows the user to use 140 characters at a time. Many celebrities and athletes have sites

so that fans can directly communicate to them. There are over 50 million “tweets” per day.

Luke’s online tips:

- Create a personal ID and profile ID and keep them separate
- Keep your identity well structured
- Publish “polished” and professional work
- Keep track of where your information goes
- Protect your information

Who’s looking at you? Marketing companies, political interest groups, and employers. We are now officially in the age of George Orwell’s, “Big Brother”. Be careful out there in your online adventures.

The final education offering for the day was **“A Deep Down Different World – The Role and Function of Soil Microbes”**. Gary Campbell, Agronomist, Agri-Energy Resources, Inc. and Roger Blogg, Soil Microbiologist, Agri-Energy Resources, Inc. were the speakers.

The most productive soils have the greatest quantity and diversity of microbial life. Microbes are the smallest form of life and they are found everywhere, including the harshest environments like miles below on the sea floor and the constantly frozen Antarctic. They constitute the largest biomass on the planet! Their main function is decomposing organic matter and recycling nutrients.

Microbes function in two ways. As a photo synthesizer they capture energy and fix carbon. As a decomposer they break down residues, degrade organic matter, enlarge soil structure, improve water flow through the soil, prevent erosion and help degrade chemicals.

Actively growing plants will build their own soil. The goal to improve microbial populations is to keep the plants healthy. 30-60% of photosynthesis is attributed to the plant roots.

Growth stimulation of microbes can be enhanced by:

Addition of soil nutrients and foliar feeding. Foliar feeding

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Speakers Henry Michna, CGCS of Winnetka Golf Club, Dave Ward of Coyote Run Golf Club and Jeff Frentz, CGCS of Lakeshore Country Club.



has been proven to provide a 95% efficiency rating. Feed existing microbes with fertilizer products, sugars, amino acids, compost teas, plant and animal compounds and microbial enhancement products.

Judicious use of irrigation. A soil that is not saturated will have better water holding capacity.

Cultural processes like aeration increase the oxygen in the soil and enhance populations.

The overall benefits of a sound biological system of a healthy microbial population include:

- Rapid decomposition of thatch
- The ability to maintain longer green growth into the fall

- A faster green up in the spring
- Decreases soil compaction
- Decrease dependence on chemical inputs

Another outstanding day of education offerings of cutting edge topics and career building tools was offered. A special thanks is offered to the MAGCS Education Committee for putting on another great Turf Clinic and to the Speakers for sharing their experiences and information. An "extra" special thanks and "shout out" to all of the Sponsors for making it happen and supporting a great Association and overall industry. **-OC**

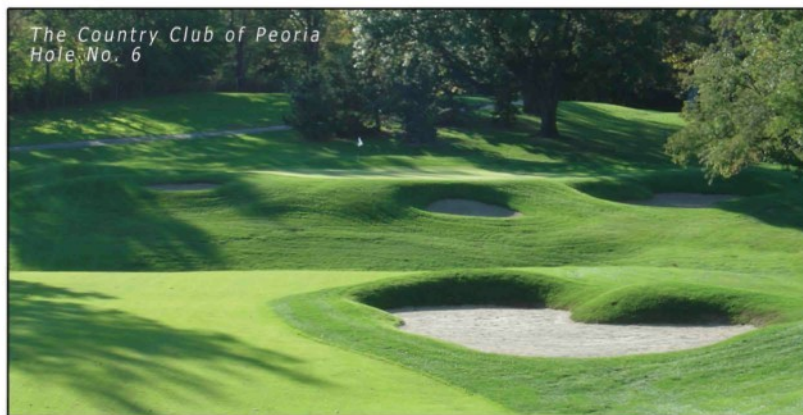


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Brad Anderson, CGCS

Remembering Ted Woehrle



On September 9, 2010, Theodore W. Woehrle, CGCS, passed away of complications from Lymphoma. Ted is survived by Mary, his wife of 50 years, sons Theodore Jr., Bruce and Chris, daughter Mary Smith, and seven grandchildren. On the following day the flag at Oakland Hills Country Club flew at half staff to honor the passing of its former greenkeeper.



From his humble beginnings as a boy working on his father Herman's golf course at the Kankakee Valley Country Club, till he finally hung up his hat at The Orchards Golf Club in 2003, Ted Woehrle's life in greenkeeping spanned an era of almost 60 years. And it is no exaggeration to say that he distinguished himself more than any other greenkeeper. Consider the following:

He was one of the first graduates of Purdue University's four year Turf Program - he remains the only turf graduate to receive the school's Ag Alumni Certificate of Distinction; he served as President of the GCSAA and two of its local chapters; while serving on the GCSAA Board of Directors he helped to steer development of the Certification program for golf course superintendents - he himself was one of the first to achieve certification; while at Beverly Country Club he hosted two Western Opens and two Woman's Western Opens; at

Oakland Hills Country Club he hosted two PGA Championships, the U.S. Open, and two U.S. Senior Opens; at The Orchards Golf Club he hosted the U.S. Public Links Championship; he grew-in two golf courses - Point O' Woods Country Club being a perennial favorite in the top 100 golf courses in America; he served as Editor of two GCSAA chapter newsletters; he helped to form the Illinois Turfgrass Foundation, serving also as its President; he personally mentored over 50 golf course superintendents; in 2007 he was inducted to the Michigan Golf Hall of Fame.

But what is most amazing about all these incredible accomplishments, is how Ted Woehrle kept his humanity and kindness. Men who attain even half this level of distinction will often compromise some relationships along the way, but not Ted Woehrle. While pushing himself to ever higher levels of achievement and leadership, he somehow found the time to carefully nurture his family, his friends, his colleagues, and all the employees that worked for him.

Even at the end of his life, as he endured the terrible pain of his condition, he was laughing and telling stories of his good

(continued on next page)

Ted Woehrle pictured (back left) in 1962 serving as MAGCS Past President.

Back row continued (l to r): Paul Voykin, Don Stewart, Bert Rost, Bill Brady

Front row (l to r): Roy Nelson, Don Gerber, John Ebel, Warren Bidwell.



old days with the Voykin brothers back in Chicago. No complaints or regrets, rather fond memories and the peaceful spirit of a pure conscience.

Whenever we lose one of our own we ought to take a moment to reflect on their life and think of how we may become better greenkeepers and better men. Theodore W. Woehrle, CGCS, just might be the best man we have ever had in our profession. He certainly set the bar very high, and yet not beyond our ability to follow his example. He really was just an ordinary man, but with an extraordinary heart for others. And he would be the first to tell you that even this came to him as a gift from God.

I think that in the end, Ted would like to be remembered as a man of faith, who only accomplished what God enabled him to. -OC



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