

ON COURSE

THE MIDWEST ASSOCIATION OF GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS

January 2010



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Out on a limb.
Even the squirrels are trying to hang on during the recession and get each nut.

FRONT COVER

Nobody's home in a bluebird box adjacent to a water feature.
Photo credit: Luke Cella

DIRECTOR'S COLUMN

3 Give Golf

Luke Cella

FEATURES

5 San Diego

Harry Lovero

**7 The Superintendent's
Five-Foot Shelf**

Steven Biehl

DEPARTMENTS

12 the Bull Sheet

John Gurke



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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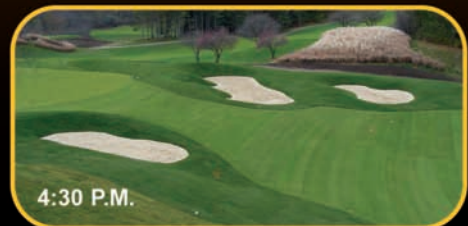
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DIRECTOR'S COLUMN

Luke Cella, *Publisher*



Give Golf

I've had many, many conversations this past year centered on the future of golf. The common theme is that golf will be different when the economy strengthens. Speculations include: a few courses closing their doors, permanent staff reductions, changes in job descriptions, less inputs, lower maintenance standards, and fewer golfers to share.

Every golf course operation has made changes to its business plan. Some began making changes ten years ago, while others have undergone some more knee-jerk and seemingly drastic reactions in the past 24 months. The golf maintenance side seems to have been hit hardest by these reductions, it is the largest expense in any golf operation. Superintendents are very resourceful and have found many ways to do more with less and provide exceptional conditions. How long can we operate in this fashion? One of two things will happen: resources will become available or maintenance standards and conditions will be lowered.

Over the past months, I've listened to many. "Rounds are up, but revenues are down." "We had a great September and November, one of the best." "October sucked!" "Our outcome is still heavily tied to weather." Of all these statements, people are still playing golf and that is good.

Golf is a business and we are vested in it. The business model we play a role in is dependent upon our owner(s) or operators. Every situation is different. We have scrutinized our operations, we have changed our way of thinking, and we have evaluated our business plan and moved forward. While we will never be able to separate ourselves from the business side of golf, we need to start to see it as a game again.

Long before golf was a business, it was a game. We can trace its evolution to its simplest form, a competition among friends that was enjoyable and provided opportunities for people to spend time with each other. We know the great qualities of our game; self-measure and score, exercise, experiencing nature, etc – but I think we often forget why others and we play. It is a very enjoyable game that continually changes. It provides an ever-present challenge to all, no matter skill, level, or passion. In the months that lay ahead, I ask two things of you: look at golf as a game again and encourage one young person to play.

Give golf. Formal golf starter programs are great, but take a moment to look around and encourage those that have already begun the game. We see kids playing on our courses and don't think much about it; however, they are the future of golf. Simple comments such as "Nice shot," "Hey, I found these balls, I'll bet you can use them," or "You really have a nice swing, keep working on it," can go a long way with those starting out. You can make a large difference.

Our profession is centered on a game, a game that became a business. Separate yourself from the business for a moment and see the game again. It will make a bigger difference than you think. **-OC**



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FEATURE I

Harry Lovero, *Orchard Valley Golf Course*

San Diego



Next month the Golf Industry Show will travel to beautiful San Diego (pronounced: saen di'eigou), named after San Diego de Alcala (St. Didicus). It is California's second largest city and the eighth largest in the United States. San Diego boasts a citywide population of nearly 1.3 million and more than 3 million residents countywide. Within its 4,200 sq. mile borders, San Diego County encompasses 18 incorporated cities and numerous other charming neighborhoods and communities, including downtown's historic Gaslamp Quarter, Little Italy, Coronado, LaJolla, Del Mar, Carlsbad, Escondido, La Mesa, Hillcrest, Barrio Logan, and Chula Vista just to name a few.

San Diego enjoys beautiful weather year round with an average daily temperature of 70.5°, so comfortable lightweight clothes are an excellent choice. In the evening throughout the year, temperatures do cool off, so a sweater or jacket is a good idea. Keep in mind that temperature extremes are found in the diverse terrain of the region, so if you are going to be visiting the desert or mountain areas, bring along appropriate clothing to get the most out of your trip.

There are 70 miles of pristine beaches and a dazzling array of excellent family attractions. Popular destinations include the world famous San Diego Zoo and Wild Animal Park, Sea World San Diego, and LEGOLAND California. San Diego offers an expansive variety of things to see and do, appealing to guests of all ages.

In San Diego's East County, the terrain varies from gentle foothills to mile-high mountains. From the historic mining town of Julian, down to the 600,000-acre Anza Borrego Desert State Park, it offers nature-conscious visitors endless opportunities to hike, camp, fish, observe wildlife, and much more. In San Diego's North County, the agricultural community produces quantities of flowers and produce. Wine growers are also making a mark by growing and harvesting quality grapes that become excellent wines. These are served in restaurants and resorts throughout the area. To the west are 70 miles of Pacific Ocean coastline, which supports year-round outdoor recreation, such as surfing, boating, sailing and swimming. To the south, it's a completely different country – Mexico – featuring its own

(continued on next page)



cultural offerings in various towns along the border and coastline, including Tijuana, Rosarito, and Ensenada.

San Diego County also features 93 golf courses in every conceivable setting from mountains to desert to ocean. It is no wonder that *Golf Digest* named San Diego one of the Top 50 golf destinations in the world. Perhaps the most famous is La Jolla's Torrey Pines Golf Course, designed by Rees Jones and home to January's annual Buick Invitational. Some of San Diego's best and most beautiful courses are north of downtown, such as Madera's and Mt. Woodson. Several other famed golf course designers have made their mark on San Diego's landscape. Tom Fazio created unique bunkers for the Grand Golf Club, spread over 7,000 yards of greens at the Grand Del Mar Resort. Arnold Palmer's masterpiece at the Four Seasons Resort Aviara has been cited by golf publications as one of the best resort courses in America.

Gary Roger Baird preserved the backcountry's natural environment while designing Barona Creek Golf Club, and Gary Player has created a course within a working ranch at Steele Canyon.

Within walking distance of the San Diego Convention Center is the USS Midway Museum. Explore a historic U.S. Navy aircraft carrier from boiler to bridge! Experience the thrill of life at sea and imagine the sea spray on a flight deck filled with restored aircraft. It is all aboard the USS Midway in downtown San Diego. Admission includes a self-guided audio tour narrated by USS Midway sailors, 60 exhibits, and 25 restored aircraft.

San Diego's many charms are hard to resist and you will soon discover why many attendees "come for the convention and stay for the vacation." **-OC**



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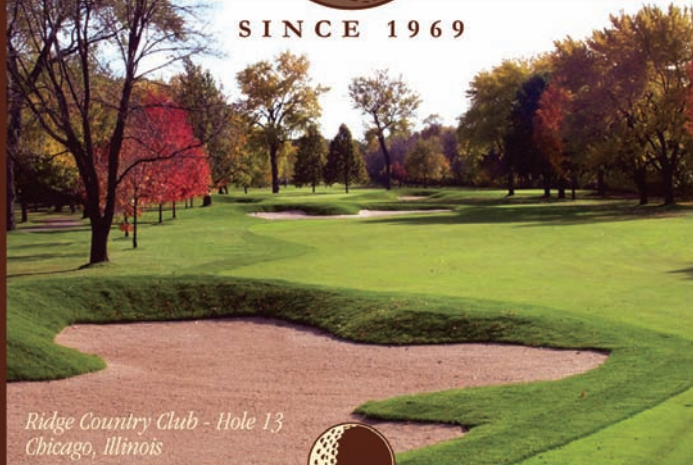


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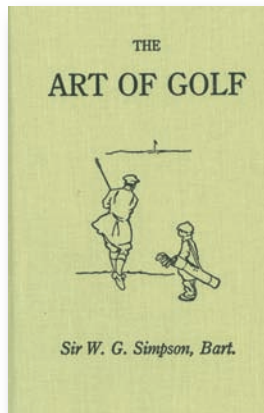
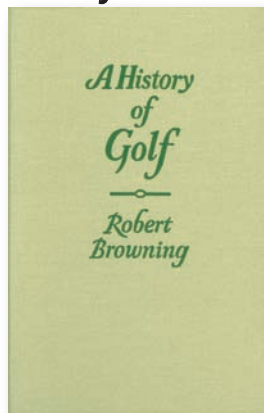


The Superintendent's Five-Foot Shelf

In late 1800's, Dr. Charles Eliot, president of Harvard University, stated on several occasions "the elements of a liberal education could be obtained by spending 15 minutes a day reading from a collection of books that could fit on a five-foot shelf." In 1909 with the help of professor of English, William Neilson, Eliot's editorial effort was published. A collection of classic works, made up of 51 volumes, accommodating 5 feet of shelf space called the Harvard Classics. This idea was continued in the 1930's when Mortimer Adler and Robert Hutchins at the University of Chicago thought concepts of education could be gained through study of the "great books" and "great ideas" of Western civilization. This led to the publication of a 54 volume series in 1952 called The Great Books of the Western World, also accommodating 5 feet of shelf space. So, I wondered, what collection of classic works should a Superintendent spend 15 minutes a day reading? Which books belong on the Superintendent's five-foot shelf?

No collection of books put together by me could ever supercede the *Harvard Classics* or *Great Books*. The goal was to use the same idea and provide a list of books that would be useful for a Superintendent to have as a reference through their career. By relating this to the collections of Eliot, and Adler, my only intention is to provide it with some level of elegance, whether it is warranted or not. The topics I considered useful included the history of golf, golf course architecture, agronomy, business management, and leadership. Here are the books that made it to the top shelf.

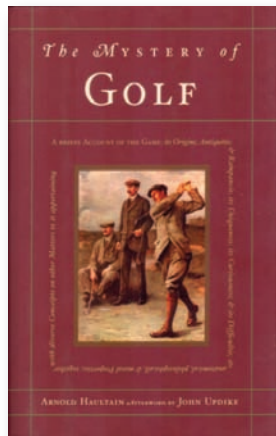
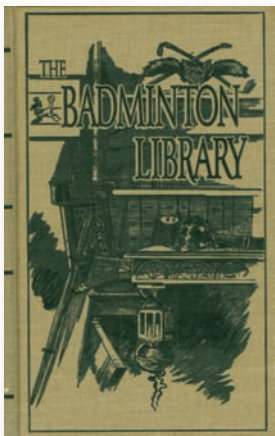
History



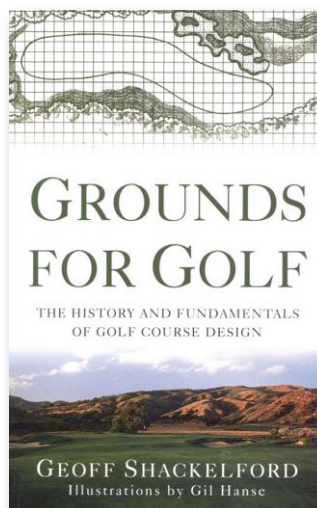
One very unique aspect of golf is it has lent itself to a collection of literature not rivaled by any other sport. Culling the list of books about the history and appeal of the game was not an easy task, but these titles are a short list of the best. *A History of Golf* – Robert Browning, 1955. It has been called the most complete history of the game of golf. Spanning from golf's antiquity in the 14th century to the early 20th century. *The Art of Golf* – Sir W.G. Simpson, Bart., 1887. A fantastic book, with wonderful writing, on the history and appeal of the game. Simpson writes:

"To some minds the great field which golf opens up for exaggeration is its chief attraction. Lying about the length of one's drives has this advantage over most forms of falsehood, that it can scarcely be detected. Your audience may doubt your veracity, but they cannot prove your falsity. Even when some rude person proves your shot to be impossibly long, you are not cornered. You admit to an exceptional loft, to a skid off a pal-ing, or, as a last appeal to the father of lies, you may rather think that a dog lifted your ball. 'Anyhow,' you add conclusively, 'that is where we found it when we came up to it.'"

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Architecture



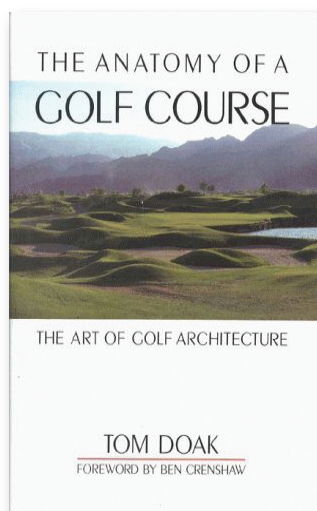
Golf: The Badminton Library – Horace C. Hutchinson, 1890. Another book with great writing on the history and appeal of the game. *British Golf Links* – Horace C. Hutchinson, 1897. This book provides descriptions and histories of 54 courses across Europe. The gem in this book is the large, crisp images of golf in the late 1800's. Show your members these pictures, and they will never be able to complain of bunker conditions again. *The Mystery of Golf* – Arnold Haultain, 1908. Some can argue this inclusion, but none can deny its uniqueness. Haultain philosophizes on all things golf related in an attempt to find answers:

"I have just come home from my Club. We played till we could not see the flag; the caddies were sent ahead to find the balls by the thud of their fall; and a low large moon threw whispering shadows on the dew-wet grass or ere we trode the home-green. At dinner the talk was of golf; and for three mortal hours after dinner the talk was – of golf. Yet the talkers were neither idiots, fools, nor monomaniacs. On the contrary, many of them were grave men of the world. At all events the most monomaniacal of the lot was a prosperous man of affairs, worth I do not know how many thousands, which thousands he had made by the same mental faculties by which this evening he was trying to probe or to elucidate the profundities and complexities of this so-called "game." Will some one tell us wherein lies its mystery?"

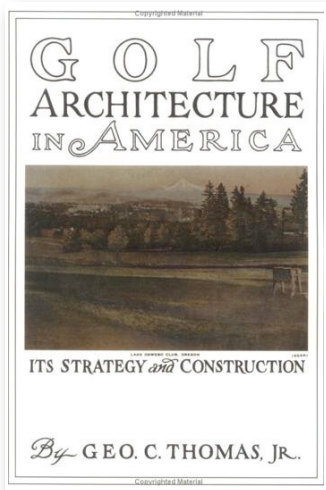
The Story of American Golf – Herbert Warren Wind, 1948. The masterpiece, from one of the masters of golf writing. The definitive history of golf in America. Absolutely necessary reading. *The Complete Golfer* – Herbert Warren Wind, 1954. This book is a collection of many different writers edited by Wind. Informative, very entertaining and covering a wide range of subjects. Be careful reading this, it could be the start of an incurable addiction to golf literature. No list of golf books will be complete without including something from Darwin, arguably the greatest golf writer to lift a pen. Not the same Darwin included in the two collections discussed at the beginning (Charles Darwin), but his grandson, Bernard Darwin. Anything by Darwin will do, but if you need a starting point, try *Golf Between Two Wars*, 1944, or *Playing The Like*, 1934. The next entry is only listed last because of its fundamental difference to the other books in this category, but is a requirement for any Superintendent, regardless of the size of shelf. The most recent edition of the USGA's *Decisions of the Rules of Golf* should be studied and understood on a regular basis.

Some study of golf course architecture is necessary to understand how maintenance of the course effects how the features of a course play. Becoming familiar with the ideas of the great golf course architects is another aspect of a liberally educated Superintendent. If you have read nothing of architecture previously, here are three books to provide a starting point. *Grounds For Golf* – Geoff Shackelford, 2003. Shackelford's book is a great overview of the history of golf course architecture and its philosophy.

"Genuine appreciation and passion for any art begins when you pick up some bit of insight that opens your eyes in unimaginable ways. Knowing just a little something about what goes into creating a work of art, a building or an innovative product adds to our lives and encourages us to explore hobbies. Enjoying any art form is not a matter of who can bewilder us with the most intellectual nonsense about angles and lines and the neo-nonexistential sensibilities of the architect."

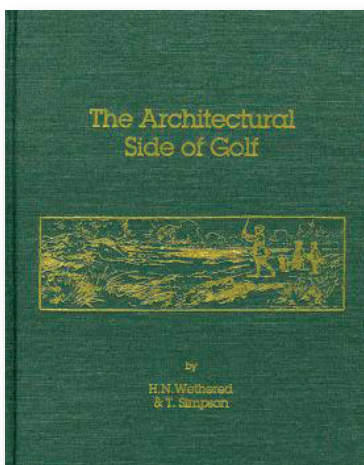


The Golden Age of Golf Design – Geoff Shackelford, 1999. This book tracks the great architects and their respective ideas regarding golf course design. It includes many early pictures from the greatest courses ever built. *The Anatomy of a Golf Course* – Tom Doak, 1992. One of the greatest books to outline the philosophies and elements used to design a golf course.



This next group of books is written by some of the greatest architects of all time. Though the content is similar, in that they are presenting their ideas regarding golf course architecture, they are all worthwhile reading to gain insight into the thought processes regarding the construction of their courses. *The Spirit of St. Andrews* – Dr. Alister Mackenzie, 1995. An unknown set of papers discovered 60 years after Mackenzie's death is what makes up this book. The literature of golf architecture is richer after finding them. *Golf Architecture in America: Its Strategy and Construction* – George C. Thomas, Jr., 1927. This is still one of the best books written about course architecture and construction. Thomas writes:

“Place the golf course on a level plane; have no traps of any kind; let every fairway be flat; the green unprotected and without rolls; let there be no rough; nothing between the tee and the green but perfect fairway, and the green itself absolutely level and what would be the result? – a thing without interest or beauty, on which there is no thrill of accomplishment which is worth while; a situation untrue to tradition, and apart from the spirit of golf as it was given birth among the rolling sand dunes of Scotland.”



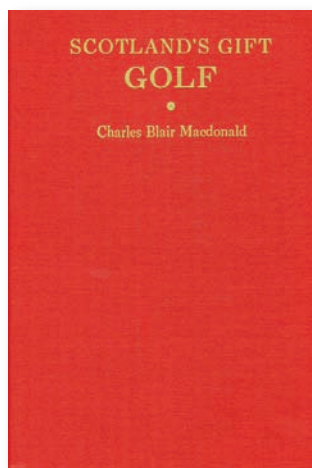
The Links – Robert Hunter, 1926. Very similar to Thomas' book, but is more peculiar, in that it was written before Hunter ever designed a single course. *The Course Beautiful* – A.W. Tillinghast, 1995. This is a fantastic collection of articles written by Tillinghast, and coupled with equally fantastic photos to supplement the written content. *Golf Has Never Failed Me* –

Donald Ross, 1996. Many short essays from Ross addressing his views on many aspects of course architecture. *Bury Me in a Pot Bunker* – Pete Dye, 1995. A very enjoyable set of stories about the construction of Dye's greatest courses. It is more unique in that we likely will not get much more from the notoriously unostentatious Dye. *The Architectural Side of Golf* – H.N. Wethered and Tom Simpson, 1929. This book is my favorite of this lot. Wethered's wonderful prose, describing his views of course architecture, make this a delight to read. Wethered writes of the ideal golf course:

“The pity of it all is that when we have succeeded in amusing ourselves in building up the ideal course, picking and choosing wonderful holes here and there – when we have, as we fancy, completed something rather wonderful, a string of pearls we admire individually, against which nothing can be said except collectively – we shall probably find ourselves saying with feelings amounting almost to repugnance, ‘Heaven forbid that we should be asked to play here! The strain of it would be intolerable.’ This is equivalent to saying that anything approaching a uniform degree of excellence is the one thing in golf which must be avoided at all cost. It smacks of standardization, which is abhorrent when it is applied to a game with the fine versatility of golf.”

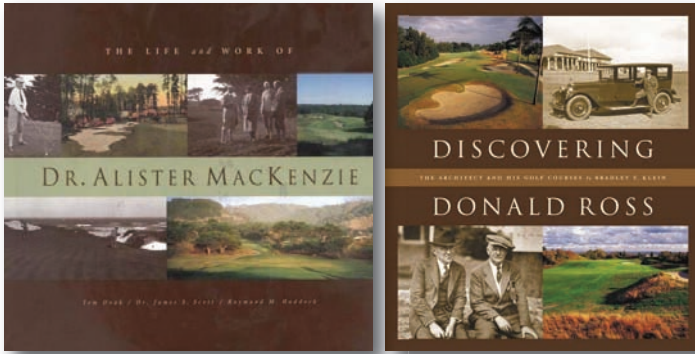
Concerning Golf – John Low, 1903. This selection could have easily been placed under the history and appeal of golf, but I have placed it here because Low sprinkled some principles regarding golf design throughout the book. As interesting as they are, they have been lost on present day courses. Low writes:

“There is hardly such a thing as an unfair bunker...It is a mistake to suppose that because you hit a shot straight down the middle of the course and find it bunkered you are to fill up the offending hazard...The greedy golfer will go too near and be sucked in to his destruction. The straight player will go just as near as he deems safe, just as close as he dare. Just as close as he dare: that's golf, and that's a hazard of immortal importance.”



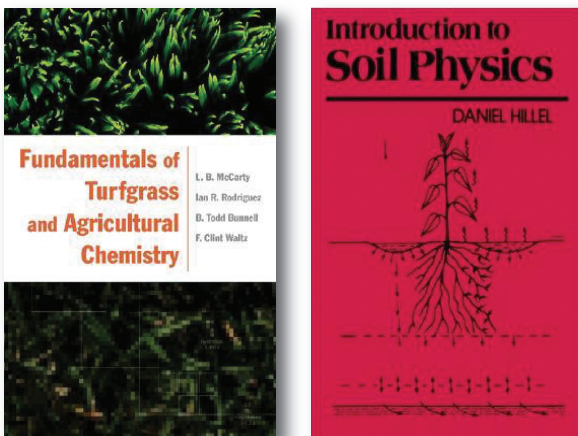
Scotland's Gift: Golf – Charles Blair Macdonald, 1928. This book is most accurately described as Macdonald's autobiography. However, regarding his place in the history of golf in America, and the profession of golf course architecture, it becomes a necessary read. You can miss the details of the beginning of the USGA that are included, but don't miss his justification for being the winner of the first “official” US Amateur
(continued on next page)

Championship. *The Golf Courses of the British Isles* – Bernard Darwin, 1910. Darwin profiling the greatest courses of the British Isles, there's no question why it is one of golf's greatest books.



The following are biographies of great golf course architects. These books are great resources for the history and construction of their respective courses. *The Life and Work of Dr. Alister Mackenzie* – Doak, Scott, Haddock, 2001. *Discovering Donald Ross: The Architect and His Golf Courses* – Bradley Klein, 2001. *The Evangelist of Golf: The Story of Charles Blair MacDonal* – George Bahto, 2002. *A.W. Tillinghast: Creator of Golf Courses* – Philip Young, 2005. *The Captain* – Geoff Shackelford, 1996.

Turfgrass



Here is the category where I will deviate from the idea behind the *Harvard Classics* and the *Great Books*. In those collections, there are no textbooks. While considering the purpose of this list I decided it was necessary to include them to incorporate their content, and to help fill 5 feet of shelf space. I made these selections based on their effectiveness at covering a specific topic related to the science of maintaining a golf course. The first book I reach for is the Agronomy Monograph No. 32 *Turfgrass* – Waddington, Carrow, Shearman, 1992. This book is a necessary resource for any Superintendent. This book covers all aspects of physiology, soils, water, management and research methods. *Turfgrass: Science and Culture* – James B. Beard, 1973. Even though it was published in 1973, very little is outdated. *Fundamentals of Turfgrass and Agricultural Chemistry* – McCarty, Rodriguez, Bunnell, Waltz, 2003. An excellent resource for understanding of chemical processes related to turfgrass management.

A set of books spanning soil properties should be readily available, and I will acknowledge the wide variety of books that

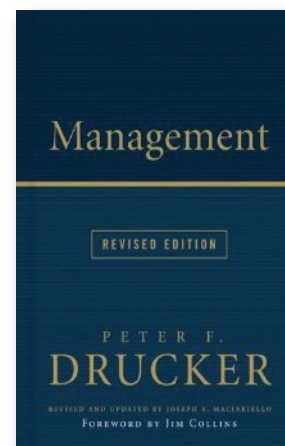
will suffice to cover the topic. I include this one because it is on my shelf: *Elements of the Nature and Properties of Soils* – Brady, Weil, 1999. *Introduction To Soil Physics* – Daniel Hillel, 1982. Regardless of how heavy the reading is, the information is indispensable. *Turfgrass Soil Fertility and Chemical Problems: Assessment and Management* – Carrow, Waddington, Rieke, 2001. There is no better book covering the fertility of turfgrass systems. If you do not already have a copy, stop what you are doing and buy one now.

Golf course irrigation is an area that does not have a lot of choices, but lucky for us we have two good selections from what is available. Both are different enough to be included. *Golf Course Irrigation: Environmental Design and Management Practices* – Barrett, Vinchesi, Dobson, Roche, Zoldoske, 2003. *Golf Course Irrigation System Design and Drainage* – Edward Pira, 1997.

When it comes to turfgrass pests, it is hard to believe there are three books that cover the subject, but, I rarely look any farther than these. *Diseases of Turfgrass* – Houston B. Couch, 1995. It is too bad this book is becoming so scarce, if you find a copy, do not pass it up. *Turfgrass Insects of the United States and Canada* – Vittum, Villani, Tashiro, 1999. This is the only insect book I have, and I do not remember a time when I needed another. *Color Atlas of Turfgrass Weeds* – McCarty, 2008. It is the best book dedicated to weeds.

In regards to the golf course and its environment, there is a useful book to have. *Sustainable Golf Courses: A Guide To Environmental Stewardship* – Ronald Dodson, 2005. I'll also include in this section a set of Peterson Field Guides to have a reference for wildlife on the golf course. *Peterson Field Guide to Eastern Birds* – Peterson, 2002. *Peterson Field Guide to Insects* – Borror, 1998.

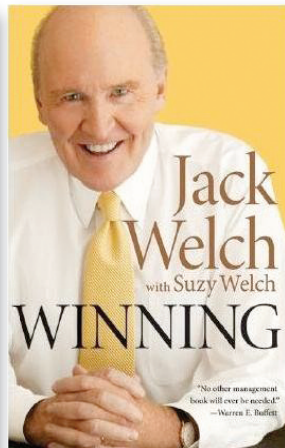
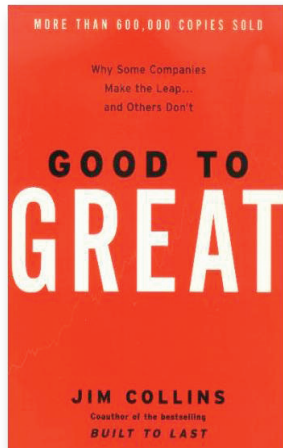
Business



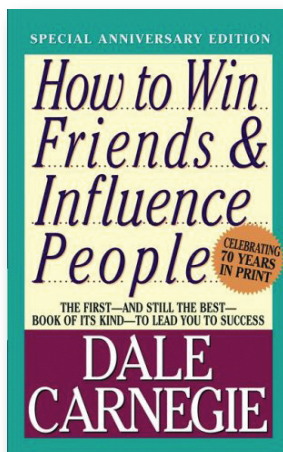
Business management and leadership are arguably the most neglected aspects of the education of Superintendents. Thankfully there is no shortage of books to help fill in the gaps. The books that follow are ones I have found useful and you may as well. *Effective Small Business Management: An Entrepreneurial Approach* – Scarborough, Zimmerer, 2003. *Financial Accounting: The Impact on Decision Makers* – Porter, Norton, 2001. These two books are textbooks, but are well organized and easy to follow. All the information contained in them is relevant to running a golf course. Be sure to get the most recent

editions, there is information from these topics that change regularly. *Management* – Peter Drucker, 2008. Over 500 pages of management philosophy-from the man who started the education of business management-it's a good starting point.

"The leaders who work most effectively, it seems to me, never say 'I'. And that's not because they have trained themselves not to say 'I'. They don't think 'I'. They think 'we'; they think 'team'. They understand their job to be to make the team function. They accept responsibility and don't sidestep it, but 'we' gets the credit. This is what creates trust, what enables you to get the task done."



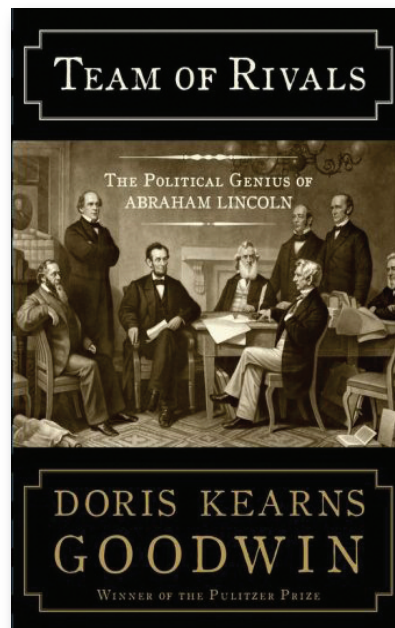
First, Break All The Rules – Marcus Buckingham and Curt Coffman, 1999. This book is a wonderful resource for anyone who manages people. *Good to Great: Why Some Companies Make the Leap and Others Don't* – Jim Collins, 2001. This book has solidified itself among the best books regarding business. Collins starts, "Good is the enemy of great. And that is one of the key reasons why we have so little that becomes great." *Winning* – Jack Welch, 2005. Welch has a way of making you question how all aspects of your course are operated. *Toyota Production System: Beyond Large Scale Production* – Taiichi Ohno and Norman Bodek, 1988. Don't think for a second you can't learn anything for your course by studying the Toyota Production System Ohno implemented. This was the start of lean manufacturing processes.



The last set of books I have dedicated to your own personal development. *How to Win Friends and Influence People* – Dale Carnegie, 1937. This book was and instant

bestseller in 1937, and to this day has not lost its appeal. All the books about interpersonal communication strive to be like this one. This book is not a suggestion, but required reading, as is the next book. *The Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin* – Benjamin Franklin. This book is the quintessential self-improvement book whether Franklin intended for it to be or not. As he winds his way through his life, be sure to pick up on his plan of conduct, his efforts at achieving moral perfection, and his path to becoming a self-made man through frugality and industry. Franklin reflects on his plan of conduct:

"The mere speculative conviction that it was our interest to be completely virtuous, was not sufficient to prevent our slipping; and that the contrary habits must be broken, and good ones acquired and established, before we can have any dependence on a steady, uniform rectitude of conduct."



The Effective Executive – Peter Drucker, 2006. The ability to manage you precludes any ability to manage other people. Drucker shows how to start with yourself to be effective at your position. *The Prince* - Niccolò Machiavelli, 1531. Machiavelli wrote to address any future prince and how they should conduct themselves. This is still useful advice 500 years later. *Team of Rivals: The Political Genius of Abraham Lincoln* – Doris Kearns Goodwin, 2005. You can read this once for the history, but read it again to learn how Lincoln conducted himself while transforming from the underdog presidential nominee of his party, to the most respected US president before or since.

So, there you have it, 54 books, covering approximately 5 feet of shelf space and providing the Superintendent with a liberal education of golf course management. Having completed this list, I must confess, I feel I am in no way qualified to do so, I was merely satisfying a curiosity. But, having read this list, if it piques your curiosity, I flatter myself to think it may have served a greater purpose. Happy reading. -OC



Happy New Year!

Now that it's the new year, it is the perfect time to introduce yourself to your peers, and what easier way than to fill out the MAGCS Personalities Profile? Just go to magcs.org, log in, and click on the Members tab and get creative. Your profile will be featured in *On Course* along with your favorite photograph of yourself, giving the members of your association an opportunity to get to know you, which can be a good thing, especially if you are selling something (and who isn't?). It's fun!

If you know of an equipment technician who you deem worthy of TurfNet's Golden Wrench Award for the Technician of the Year honor, you need to hurry and nominate him or her—the deadline is the 19th of February. The criteria on which the award is based include crisis management, effective budgeting, environmental awareness, helping to further and promote the careers of colleagues and employees, interpersonal communications, inventory management and cost control, overall condition and dependability of rolling stock, shop safety, and work ethic. Send nominations to jreitman@turfnet.com or mail them to 1500 Park Center Drive, Orlando, FL 32835, or fax them to 407-513-9108. Hurry!

Don't forget to do the Chicago thing and vote early (possibly too late for that) and OFTEN for our local representatives for Lebanon Turf and Golfdom's Dog of the Year contest to be awarded at the Golf Industry Show in San Diego next month. The dogs in question are Park Ridge Country Club's Tessa (belonging to **Joel Purpur, CGCS**) and Marley (**Nick Walters'** pooch), who were the featured dogs in August in the Dog Days of Golf 2010 calendar. Fill out as many ballots as you can and let Joel and Nick bring the hardware home!

Congratulations from the bottom of my heart to **Ed Fischer, CGCS** on his recent retirement after a long and storied career that began with Ed working for Dudley Smith at Silver Lake Country Club as a young lad, continuing with his long tenure at Butler National Golf Club where he hosted numerous Western Opens, and culminating with an even longer stay of 30 years at Old Elm Club. Ed has served as mentor to many current superintendents—myself included—and is the absolute epitome of all that is good about our business, demonstrating an unselfish willingness to share his vast experience with those around him, and always with the utmost of class. If there were a manual on how to comport

(continued on page 14)

DATES TO REMEMBER

January 20-22 – Mid-America Horticultural Trade Show at McCormick Place in Chicago, IL.

February 5-7 – GCSAA National Championship and Golf Classic in Palm Springs, CA.

February 8-12 – 2010 GCSAA Education Conference in conjunction with the Golf Industry Show in San Diego, CA.

February 10 – MAGCS Hospitality Reception at the Hotel Solamar in San Diego, CA.

February 19 – Deadline to nominate your equipment technician for TurfNet's Technician of the Year Award.

March 6-14 – Chicago Flower & Garden Show at Navy Pier in Chicago, IL.

March 16 – MAGCS monthly meeting at Midwest Golf House in Lemont, IL.

March 18-20 – International Golf Course Equipment Manufacturers Association's Virtual Trade Show at an internet-connected computer near you.



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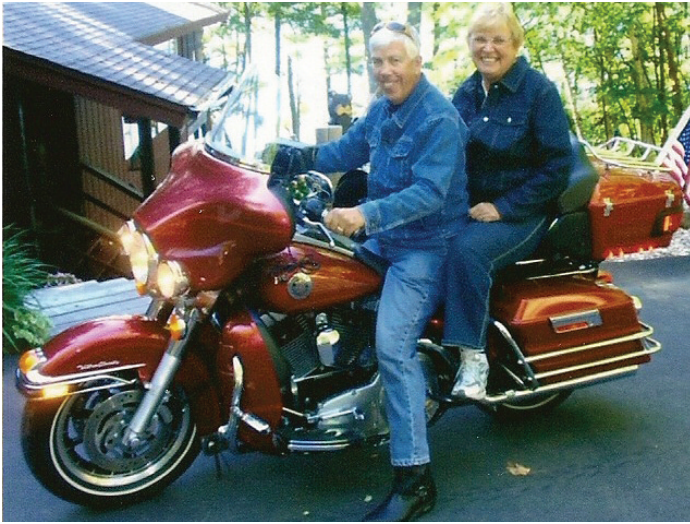
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oneself as a golf course superintendent, Ed would have been the model by which all others could benefit. We wish Ed and Jan all the best in their future endeavors—which I imagine will include playing a lot of golf—and offer our congratulations on a long and illustrious career.



Ed and Jan Fischer getting an early jump on enjoying retirement.

Congratulations also to two men who are just starting their careers as golf course superintendents: **Ben McGargill**, who previously was an assistant superintendent for **Steve Cook, CGCS MG** at Oakland Hills Country Club is the new golf course superintendent at Wynstone Golf Club; and **Scott Vincent**, former assistant superintendent for **Don Cross, CGCS** at Skokie Country Club was named golf course superintendent at Onwentsia Club, taking over for the retiring **Skip Willms, CGCS**. Best of luck, gentlemen!

Well, next month is the big event—the GCSAA National Championship and Golf Classic in Palm Springs followed by the Education Conference and Golf Industry Show in sunny San Diego. For those planning to “Kick it West to Success,” there is plenty to do while you are there. Among the highlights this year: The various golf events in Palm Springs including the championship, the golf classic, and the Four-Ball mixer; Celebrate GCSAA! on the 9th (formerly the Opening Session and Welcoming Reception) which will feature the presentation of the Old Tom Morris Award to Judy Rankin along with the other prestigious honors and awards; the keynote addresses by Chris Gardner (author of *The Pursuit of Happyness*) and Brian Little, PhD at the General Sessions on the 10th and 11th; the new Show Floor Happy Hour on the 11th from 4 to 6 pm; the new Celebrating Certification! Event (formerly the Certification Luncheon) on the 12th; the various field trips, sessions and seminars throughout the week; the trade show which is always a rompin’ stompin’ good time; and of course the MAGCS Hospitality Reception on the 10th at the Hotel Solamar. Many of our MAGCS members will be giving presentations at the Conference which shouldn’t be missed, including **John Ekstrom, Chuck Anfield** (whose presentation isn’t that bad), **Bruce Williams, Erwin McKone, Tommy Witt, Jon Jennings,** and **Bruce Branham** (I hope I haven’t forgotten anyone).

And although there are several GIS events before 2014 when we return to Orlando, GCSAA and its GIS partners pulled a major coup that will make the 2014 Show one of the best bargains in its history. GIS partners recently learned that they had placed the winning bid in an auction by the Professional Convention Management Association (I wonder if they have a convention?) for a package of services at the Orange County Convention Center in 2014. The bid of \$175,000 will ultimately save the partners around \$335,000 over the value of the package, which includes exhibit space, meeting rooms, and other discounted services. And of course these huge savings will be passed on to all attendees in the form of an envelope stuffed with cash! Not.

Good luck to those competing in the golf classic, and best wishes for a safe trip to San Diego to all attending.

Congratulations to **Dave Groelle, CGCS** who recently was recertified with GCSAA. Obviously Dave is still working on his American Snowmobile Society (ASS) certification...



There was a very cool item in the news recently about the Chicago High School for Agricultural Sciences, a public school on the City’s southwest side which described the students’ collaborative effort in the construction of a 3-hole golf course on a preciously unused waste area adjacent to the school. With the help of an architect, the students cleared the land (including disposing of junked cars and various other items), graded, shaped, drained, grassed, and landscaped the course which is now maintained and operated by students, is handicapped-accessible, and is open to the public for use at no cost. Over 300 students took part in the project, which has received acclaim from national media outlets (and now this esteemed publication as well). Feel good stuff that.

Looks like there is some good news on the Emerald Ash Borer front. The team of Michigan State University entomologist Dave Smiley, PhD, research technician Kevin Newhouse, and research assistant Terry Davis conducted trials from 2005 to 2008 on ash trees in East Lansing and found that at least

3 insecticides were effective at protecting the trees as trunk injection systems, while at least 5 others exhibited control as a soil drench. Trunk injections of emamectin benzoate, acetamidiprid, and imidacloprid; as well as soil drench applications of clothianidin, imidacloprid, and dinotefuran exhibited canopy thinning of 30% or less (with 40% being deemed acceptable) as well as acceptable larval density. Check out www.emeraldashborer.info for all the latest information and research.

It's official—**Nick DeVries** has been officially welcomed to the CDGA Turfgrass Program team as of his hiring on December 3rd. Nick will be the program's electronic communications expert, as well as assist with all research and diagnostic endeavors. **Keith Rincker** will remain as Manager of Turfgrass research, and Dr. Derek Settle will keep doing whatever it is he does (he'd tell us, but he'd have to kill us). Congratulations, Nick!



L to R. Dr. Derek Settle, Keith Rincker and Nick DeVries.

As most Rain Bird users have learned, the local distributor of Rain Bird products, Hydrologic has closed its doors. Unfortunately, many people were affected by this including MAGCS members **Scott Pace** and **Kevin West**. We hope for the best for Scott and Kevin and the folks from Hydrologic. Stay tuned for any developments on this story.

The December, 2009 issue of *Superintendent* magazine had a nice feature by Nancy Riggs titled "A Round With **Glenn Bereiter**," the certified golf course superintendent at Aldeen Golf Club in Rockford, IL. The Q and A format allowed Glenn to expound on his thoughts on various topics including his most challenging aspect of turf management at Aldeen, and his view of the future of golf course management.

Also seen in print recently was Rich Harvest Farms' **Jeff VerCautren's** article "Budgeting Tools," which appeared in the *Green Breeze*, the official publication of the Greater Cincinnati Golf Course Superintendents Association.

So FMC Professional Solutions had this Crash Course contest where you tell them about the goofiest thing you've ever encountered on the golf course and you win \$5,000 cash for your course if your story is the goofiest. Although non-MAGCS member James Sprankle of the Loxahatchee club in Jupiter, FL won with some ridiculous tale of finding Mayan ruins and human bones—BORING—on his course when he was superintendent at Cabo del Sol in Cabo San Lucas, two MAGCS members did win honorable mention with their

tales. **Erwin McKone** and yours truly each earned \$250 for our clubs with our much more interesting stories of alien encounters on our respective courses. We'd love to share them with you, but the tales are now property of FMC and all its subsidiaries, all rights reserved, any use of the articles or descriptions contained therein is prohibited without express written consent of FMC and/or God.

The Holiday party circuit was in high gear last month, with the West Side and South Side parties playing bookends for a weekend. On Friday the 4th, **Don Ferreri** welcomed the West Side Superintendents Party to Seven Bridges for an afternoon of great food and drink. Strictly due to its proximity, many of the attendees dropped in to the Tilted Kilt—if I need to describe it, you don't need to know—to continue the festivities (or to allow all that nasty holiday traffic to clear). Adopting a "Why stop now?" attitude, some hearty party-goers continued on to Walter Payton's Roundhouse in downtown Aurora to catch the live music of This End Up, a band fronted by vocalist Stephanie Brinegar (the better half of Jeff Brinegar of LaGrange Country Club) for a marathon, 3-set extravaganza that lasted well into the wee hours.



Three captains of industry: Captain Crunch, Captain Morgan and Captain Kangaroo.



A feel-good holiday moment between Krause and Zartmann.

(continued on page 17)

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John Anderson and Jay Lemanski yuk it up.



The father and son team of Justin and John Kirtland.



Still can't figure why the next stop was so popular...



Stephanie Brinegar belts out a tune at Walter Payton's Round House with her band This End Up.

Thank goodness for the Bears—a chance to sleep it all off over the weekend before Monday, when the South Side Superintendents Party made its return to Chef Klaus' Bier Stube in Frankfort. A huge turnout enjoyed the warm atmosphere of dead wild animals and their various antlers, hooves, paws and parts hanging from the walls and ceilings; and of course the crazy-good Bavarian fare of schnitzels and sausages and more sausages and of course bier. Keith Peterson and Eddie Esgar put together another winner (or would wiener be more apropos?), and all who came left happy and full. What a great way to usher in the holidays!



Ed Esgar applies the "Brain Sucker" to Keith Peterson—he found very little to suck.



Joe Schneider, Luke Cella and two folks who went straight from the West Side to the South Side party.

(continued on page 19)



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Dave Kohley consults with elder statesmen Renny Jacobson and John Lebedevs.



Chrissy the bierfrau demonstrates what happens to those who get overly festive, but Chuck Barber came prepared.



Dick Trevarthan gives John Turner and Dan Marco a little Christmas nooky.



The hard-working German family of Todd, Ray, and Mark Schmitz.



Holly Gilmour shows off the fare for the day, which included all the basic food groups (pig, pig, pig, and baby cow).



Poor Wally...

.....








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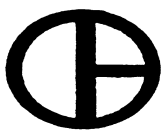
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