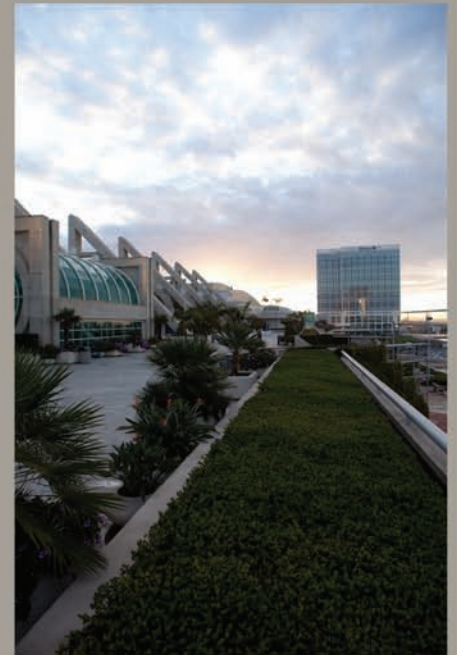


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March 2010



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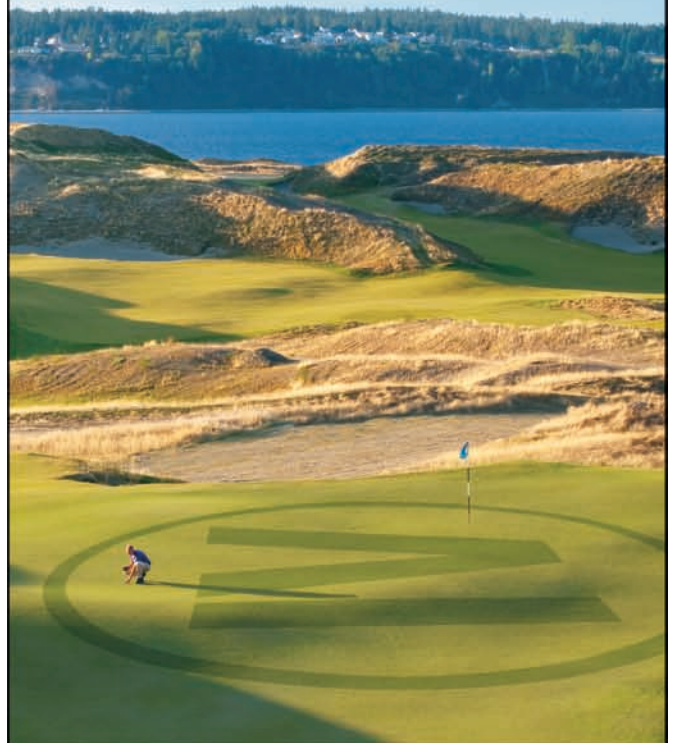
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A picture tour of San Diego. Clockwise from top r. Torrey Pines State Park, The San Diego skyline from Coronado, a Giant Panda from the San Diego Zoo, The Gas Lamp district, La Quinta Golf Club, The Midway, The Sand Diego Conference Center, The Midwest Hospitality Reception and Pacific Drive.  
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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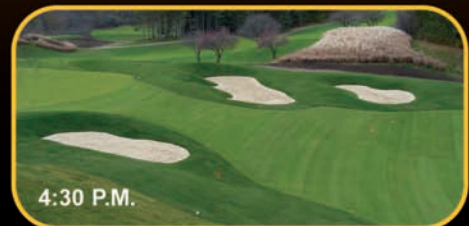
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## DIRECTOR'S COLUMN

Jim Keith, CGCS and Mark Thibault, MAGCS Directors



Jim Keith

Mark Thibault

# 2010 is in Full Swing, are You?

*With the 2010 golf season around the corner, we have some exciting venues to feature for the upcoming season.*

The **April 27** meeting will take place at Joliet Country Club with the host superintendent being Mark Kowaliczko. The spring event is a fun way to start the golfing season. It features a 4-man scramble so that everyone can shake the rust off early in the year. The golf committee has decided to bring handicaps back into the fold for this event – we will use 20% of your combined team handicap to figure out our net winner. By the way, one of the benefits of your Midwest membership is a USGA handicap through the CDGA. To sign up for one please contact our office 630-243-7900 and we will get you set up.

**May 17** is the combined ITF and Midwest Meeting and will take place at Idlewild Country Club, Kurt Sams CGCS. The ITF has done a great job the past few years with this event posing partners in a Ryder Cup format. It isn't too early to think about your foursome. Plan to play in this event and help support turf research.

**June 14** features the Dom Grotti Championship along with the Senior and Class C Championships that will be hosted by Phil Zeinert CGCS at Elgin Country Club. The Dom Grotti Championship, for those not familiar, pairs the Superintendent and their Assistant for the day. The event is in honor of Domenic Grotti, the long time Superintendent of Sunset Ridge Country Club. Domenic encouraged the participation of Assistant Superintendents both locally and nationally to stay involved with their associations.

Our annual family picnic event takes place on **July 17** with the Kane County Cougars. This has become a great tradition involving the families of the MAGCS. Come out and enjoy a fun filled evening where the spirit of baseball is still alive and genuine. NEW this year: We booked one of the new upper decks along the first base line that will provide a really unique setting for our group. Don't miss this chance to spend some time with your family and friends, while taking a small break mid-season.

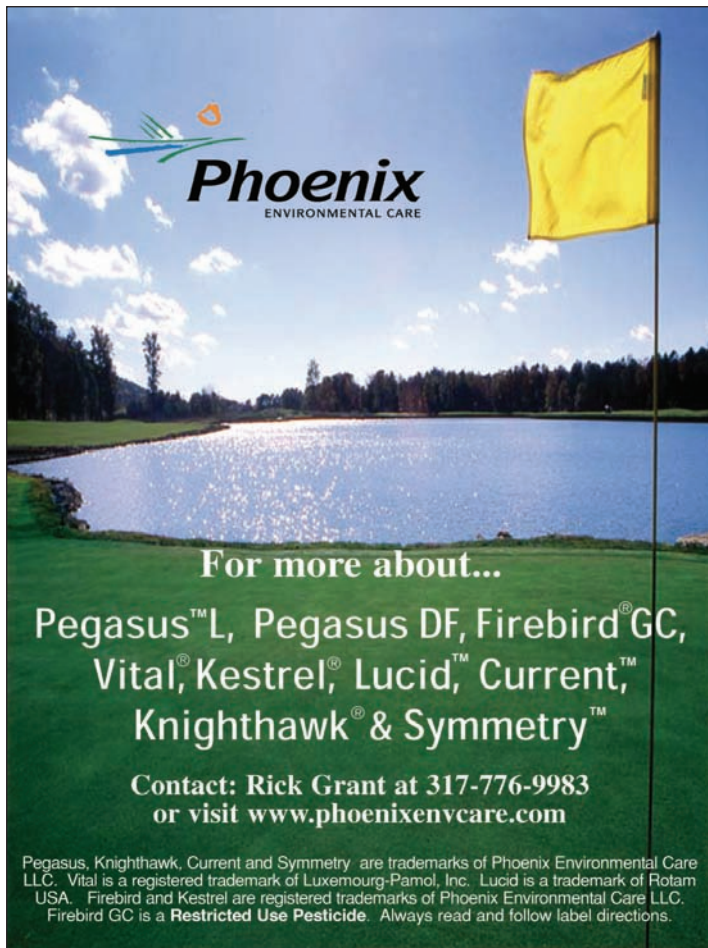
**September 16** is the Annual MAGCS Championship. Tim Anderson, CGCS and Naperville Country Club will host this year. The winner of the Championship Flight receives an automatic exemption into the 2010 Illinois Open.

In addition to our golf event for the month of September, the 2nd annual iTurfExpo will be held again at the Midwest Golf House on **September 22-23**. This fund raising affair was a success to build on after the turnout from last year. This is another great ITF event so come out and help support the research that is needed for our success. The ITF depends on your participation.

We return to Cantigny Golf Club where are current MAGCS President, Scott Witte, CGCS will host the annual College Championship. The famed Collegiate Championships, held on **October 4**, features a 2-man scramble representing regional colleges and universities.

On **November 3**, we return to Medinah Country Club and host superintendent, Curtis Tyrrell CGCS for 2010 MAGCS Annual Meeting and Turf Clinic.

We encourage all members of the Association to participate in as many meetings as possible during the year. Attending monthly meetings is a great way to meet new members and stay involved in one of the GCSAA's leading chapters. The success of our organization depends largely on the involvement from the vast and talented membership of the MAGCS. Attending these meetings is a great way to stay refreshed within the demanding work environment and give us all a chance to relax and play a round of golf. So please, plan to attend a few events during the 2009 season. See you there! **-OC**



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## FEATURE I

Ty McClellan, *USGA Green Section*



# Getting Their Hands Dirty

## Adding value to student internships

*As Bud White, Director of the Mid-Continent Region, USGA Green Section, and I reviewed applications and began interviewing turfgrass students this past week for our internship, we found ourselves talking about how important it is to provide a well-rounded internship experience, how important internships are, and what their ultimate goal is. In fact, during Turfgrass Advisory Service visits and at many conferences throughout the year, internships are a regular topic. Sadly, many well-respected golf facilities are frustrated with the recruiting process. And, while some top-tier, nationally recognized courses with internship openings will be inundated with dozens and dozens of applications, other quality facilities that are not as prominent will fail to receive more than one or two applications, if any.*

During my travels, I frequently ask superintendents about internship possibilities at their facilities. Do they have quality interns? What type of program is in place? Is it working? It has been surprising to learn that a number of great golf courses either lack internship programs or have given up on the idea of interns altogether, because few students showed an interest, even with an offer of free housing. Many of these facilities are notable or have fairly substantial annual operating budgets. This article summarizes some of the key points and areas of concern that have been prominent in these discussions of internships.

An internship in turfgrass management is a specified period of time during which a student works under a professional in return for instruction. For golf, internships are available at a wide variety of facilities and associations, and they offer an even wider array of experiences.

The most popular internships are offered by nationally recognized, private or resort golf facilities. Many of these facilities have more than eighteen holes of golf and host major championships. Others have moderate to large budgets but may or may not be nationally recognized. These facilities may host a championship from time to time, but, in general, their

emphasis is on daily golf whether it is private, public, municipal, corporate outings, etc.

While there are advantages and disadvantages to each, it is important to realize that students benefit the most from diverse experiences. Currently, students prefer the nationally recognized facilities, which do not always guarantee the best experience. Depending on the structure of the internship, there can be voids in skill development and in gaining an understanding of course management. When the student enters the workforce, these voids become obvious, positions can be jeopardized, and the ability to successfully transition from school to full-time employment can be undermined.

Voids in training occur when the student experiences only a small range of activities during the internship. There can be a greater risk of this at larger, rather than smaller, facilities. In smaller facilities, with a limited number of employees, assistance is always needed across the course. Weaknesses in training also tend to be more frequent if a major event is on the calendar, since tournament preparations demand a great deal of time from course supervisors. This can leave little time to spend one-on-one with interns. For these reasons, mid-range

*(continued on next page)*



facilities should never be discounted, as they may offer a better internship, greater experiences, and more challenges for better student development.

An investment is required on both ends to ensure success. The superintendent must invest just as heavily in mentoring interns, as the intern must invest in the learning experience. While there are great internships where much of the golf operation is explored, there are also programs where an intern does little more than an hourly summer employee would, performing just one or maybe a few mundane tasks repeatedly throughout the duration of the internship. These tasks often include raking bunkers, changing cups, and so on. Again, the objective is to experience a broad range of activities and preferably as many aspects as possible of golf course management. Internships should cover all areas of golf course maintenance practices, including irrigation and equipment repair, as well as budgeting and personnel management. If at all possible, educational seminars, university turfgrass research field days, local association meetings, and meetings with key staff and course officials should be included in a quality course internship.

It is also important to vary the internship experience, nationally (not just locally) and at both public and private facilities. Many four-year turf degrees and two-year programs require six months of internship experience as part of the curriculum. Students can vary their experience by doing two, separate, three-month summer internships.

Superintendents can collaborate with other facilities, whether they are across the street, across town, or across the country and share interns by splitting the summer in half or by recommending an intern for the following season. In addition, a student's internship experience can be enhanced by volunteering for a week at a major championship, if it is not possible to do a full summer internship at a facility, but remember to plan this type of involvement well in advance. While all interns generally agree that taking part in the preparations for a major golf championship is exciting and special, not all will be motivated to seek employment at these types of facilities, not all will be fulfilled. Some may even find that the added demands of such tournaments are not enjoyable and that they prefer a smaller facility.

We all play a part in promoting the game of golf and our industry. We are all responsible, in one way or another, for its overall success. Internships play an important role. The following thoughts are offered for improving the internship process:

**For Students** - Internships provide education, experience, and career opportunities. A well-rounded placement that offers involvement in all aspects of golf course management should never be overlooked. At times, this means looking past nationally recognized facilities and identifying prominent regional facilities. While name recognition can be important, a range of activities and responsibilities is equally important. Therefore, try working with course officials, and particularly the superintendent, to take an active role in setting objectives. When considering internships, ask questions, ask for more responsibility, and try to obtain a broad range of experiences. Spend

time at different types of facilities, in varying geographical regions, with a range of climates, and with various turfgrass species, budgets, management styles, golfer expectations, etc. This will maximize your experience and provide the background and credentials needed to compete for a full-time position at the course of your choice.

**For Student Advisors or Program Coordinators** -

Advocate for internship experiences that are comprehensive and balanced. Doing so will better prepare students for a successful transition into the workforce following graduation. In addition, students will begin to develop the network they need to find a job and build a career. Look ahead and determine if championships will be in the area and if volunteers are needed. This can be an excellent opportunity for networking and gaining practical experience. Work with local courses and make contacts outside the region so that you can help your interns become aware of opportunities.

**For Superintendents** -

If you have struggled with setting up or maintaining a quality internship program in the past, do not give up just yet. This is a great time to take another look at recruiting

and design a better internship experience. Some superintendents attend university career fairs to recruit interns. For those limited by budget, consider working with nearby superintendents to create a shared internship with another facility or facilities. Quality internships require investments of time, effort, and patience. Challenge interns to think critically. Encourage questions. Internships can be a screening process for future assistant superintendents. They can help you assemble a dedicated, talented, hard-working staff. There is a direct relationship between course conditioning and the quality of the staff.





In addition to the typical internship activities, consider allowing an intern to shadow your movements for a week. This could be a benefit earned from a long summer of effort. With supervision, provide the intern with an opportunity to feel the responsibility of handling day-to-day planning of golf course activities. Include conducting a morning meeting with the crew where tasks are assigned and daily objectives discussed. Following the meeting, allow the intern to assist in managing daily activities and monitoring course conditions throughout the day. During this week, a meeting or two with the general manager, senior department heads, or key personnel would also be very beneficial.

**For Future Employers** - Open up your course for internship opportunities and help design programs not only to teach turf management skills but also to develop the characteristics you look for in your employees. When interviewing applicants for an assistant superintendent position (or any other skilled position, such as irrigation or spray technician or crew foreman), critically review résumés and job applications. Avoid placing too much emphasis on name recognition of the golf facilities where the applicant has past experience, as this does not automatically qualify someone to be an assistant superintendent. The best candidates are those with the capacity to perform a variety of duties and a skill set that is broad. Read between the lines and ask the right questions to ensure that the applicant is an ideal fit for your facility. The best candidates are generally those who have internship experiences at facilities with resources and expectations consistent with yours.

It is important for golf facilities to find motivated interns. Furthermore, internships should be evaluated for what can be learned and achieved. "As seen on TV" does not necessarily mean, "experienced in person." While some students appear to have the preferred internship experience, they may lack the necessary training and qualifications to succeed.

All of us can and should be advocates for the game of golf and our industry, and this includes promoting quality internships. Better internship programs strengthen our industry and improve our golf courses because individuals are more experienced, better qualified, and more likely to be placed in the right positions for success.

For complete details on developing and experiencing a quality internship program, GCSAA has an Internship Handbook that is available on the Internet for employers at the following address: [www.gcsaa.org/jobs/employers/interns/internshiphandbook.aspx](http://www.gcsaa.org/jobs/employers/interns/internshiphandbook.aspx) and students at the following address: [www.gcsaa.org/students/InternshipProgram.aspx](http://www.gcsaa.org/students/InternshipProgram.aspx). To search and post internship opportunities, visit [www.gcsaa.org](http://www.gcsaa.org) (select "Internships" under the "Students" tab) or contact faculty advisers at a university or school with a turf program. Several good articles on mentoring that specifically pertain to internships include the following:



**MAXIMIZING STUDENT INTERNSHIPS:**  
**Make the Summer Rite of Passage a Win-Win for Students and Superintendents** (Bakalyar, Andrea C. 2004. *Golf Course Management*. November. 72(11): p. 76-78 <http://archive.lib.msu.edu/tic/gcman/article/2004nov76.pdf>)

**SUCCESSFUL RECRUITING: Building Your Crew Around Student Interns** (Brame, R. A. 2000. *USGA Green Section Record*. May/June. 38(3): p. 4 <http://turf.lib.msu.edu/2000s/2000/000504.pdf>)

**HELPING HAND: Building Up the Next Generation of Superintendents** (Grys, Lucie. 2009. *GreenMaster*. March/April. 44(2): p. 34-35 <http://archive.lib.msu.edu/tic/grnma/article/2009mar34.pdf>)

**TEACH YOUR INTERNS WELL: Two Superintendents Team Up for the Ultimate Program** (Myers, Jim. 2008. *Golfdom*. April. 64(4): p. 96-98 <http://www.golfdom.com/golfdom/Professional+Development/Teach-Your-Interns-Well/ArticleStandard/Article/detail/512889>) -OC

*TY McCLELLAN is an agronomist with the USGA Green Section's Mid-Continent Region. He has seen many great internship opportunities overlooked by students in recent years.*



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FEATURE ARTICLE II  
Nick Walters, Park Ridge Country Club

# Professional Social Networking

*The way we communicate today is different from how we communicated in the past. Instead of snail mail and telegrams, we send emails and make phone calls. Want to leave somebody a short message on a post-it note? No need, just send them a text message. Not only have some methods of communication been replaced by others, but there are new ways of sending your message to individuals and groups. One of these additional methods is online social networking.*

Social networking is what happens when people with a common interest interact for personal or professional gain. There are myriads of websites designed for these connections, but Facebook and LinkedIn are among the most popular.

Sites like these can be useful in our personal and professional lives, and, the best part is, they can be fun. For most of us, however, the initial thought of joining an online community might not be that appealing. We may ask, "What's wrong with a phone call or email?"

There is nothing wrong with a phone call, email, text message, or personal conversation. In fact, let's take a second to dissect that last sentence. A phone call, an email, and a text message are all examples of how communication has evolved. The common link in this evolution is technology. Newer methods of communicating are not necessarily better than those of the past, but certain situations may call for different ways to touch base. There are definite technological gaps between generations. Whether we like it or not, we need to follow the trends to keep these gaps from widening.

Just like the telephone and email, social networking sites have begun to change the way people interact. Professionally, these online communities can provide a valuable way for individuals to promote their talents and for associations and companies to share and update information.

Showcasing our talents can be difficult, but the more outlets we have to promote them, the more likely someone will notice us. The same goes for companies and associations. The MAGCS groups on Facebook and LinkedIn not only provide information to get to the MAGCS website, but the groups also serve as a place to contact other members, discuss industry topics, or learn details about future MAGCS events. Through member profiles, we can keep colleagues updated on personal and professional endeavors, such as current projects or career moves.

LinkedIn prides itself on being the professional side of the social networking scale, and is focused on connecting one person or group to another via mutual connections. This can be useful in a number of different circumstances.

For instance, rumor has it that a local golf course is looking for a new superintendent, and you would like to find some information about that. LinkedIn will show you the contacts you share at that course. Not only that, it will show you contacts **of your** contacts that have connections with that golf course. Now all you have to do is get a hold of the mutual contacts via their respective LinkedIn pages.

In another example, I am a member of the MAGCS group on LinkedIn, which means I am connected to the other members of the MAGCS group. Let's say I need some information about a new fairway mower but don't know who to contact. LinkedIn allows me to see what vendors are a part of my network or a colleague's network. Now I know who to call or email.

Facebook is a bit more liberal and claims its mission is, "To give people the power to share and make the world more open and connected." Facebook users are able to keep in contact with friends, family and colleagues, as well as share photos, videos, and other information.

With the built in security settings of Facebook, users pick and choose who can view portions of their profile, thus allowing them to keep their private lives separate from their professional lives. For example, a user creates a vacation photo album on Facebook. This album contains some photos that border on unprofessional, but friends would enjoy them. The user can adjust the privacy settings and identify who can see them.

On the professional side, the MAGCS Facebook page offers members a discussion board as well as a current list of association events. Also, depending on the privacy settings of an individual's profile page, members can view and interact with colleagues via their own Facebook pages.

This is a summary of the basic functions available. If you belong to an online community, or would like to explore further possibilities of social networking, join the MAGCS groups on Facebook and LinkedIn. If you find that it's not for you, you can delete your profile at any time. **-OC**

## SUPER -N- SITE

Nick Marfise, *Glenview Park Golf Club*

# Nick Devries -N- The Midwest Golf House

*Research is a valuable, but often overlooked, necessity for the turfgrass industry. Fortunately, for all of us trying to grow grass in less-than-ideal conditions, the Chicago District Golf Association (CDGA) has placed a committed team of researchers on our side. Nick Devries is one of the CDGA's newest. He began his work at the Golf House in Lemont in May 2009, after his graduation from Florida Southern College in Lakeland, Florida. At Florida Southern, Nick earned a bachelors degree in in Turfgrass Science with a minor in Business. At the Golf House, Nick has partnered up with Dr. Derek Settle (Director of Turfgrass Programs) and Keith Rinker (Manager of Turfgrass Research).*

Nick grew up in Grand Rapids, Michigan. While in school, he completed a student internship at Cape Cod National Golf Course in Brewster, Massachusetts. There, he loved being outdoors and near the ocean. Although Lemont does not come with any ocean side views, becoming part of the Turf Research Team appealed to Nick for a number of reasons. First, he gets to travel to courses around the Chicago Area assisting Derek Settle with disease diagnostic calls. He enjoys seeing all the differences in maintenance operations and cultural practices. Nick was also busy this past summer with construction of a USGA spec putting green at the Golf House. The new green has twenty-five cultivar plots for use in dollar spot research. During construction he got his hands dirty and showcased his techniques for moving gravel and sand. Tagging fungicides and applying them for disease research was another of Nick's summer projects.

Over the winter, Nick is making major upgrades to the CDGA Turf Program Website. Using HTML and Dreamweaver, he's creating a new design and functions. The upgraded website will provide some additional features. When the upgrade comes online around April 1, you will see Derek Settle's Scouting Reports with warnings of specific diseases updated every week. Be sure to visit the site frequently at [www.cdगतurf.org](http://www.cdगतurf.org). Nick recommends Course Vision, a service that assists Superintendents in creating an inventory for golf course mapping. You can view Course Vision at [www.groundlinkx.com](http://www.groundlinkx.com). It takes just the right touch to be successful in the projects that Nick is responsible for with the CDGA. The CDGA is glad that he's off to a great start.

Nick is currently living in Downers Grove. Although he misses the warm weather of his school days, he enjoys working in the Chicago Area. Thanks to him and many others at the Golf House, our knowledge and professionalism continue to grow. Keep up the great work, it is certainly appreciated. **-OC**



*Nick checking out some snow mold at Sunshine Course.*

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### “Superintendents List of New Year’s/Season’s Resolutions”

Another year has gone by. It’s time to reload and start a new one. What will this season bring us? Will it be another cool, moist, “easy” summer (I hope so)? Or, will it go back to days of yore (remember 1995) and be sweltering hot and funky humid?

It’s hard not to reflect back on all the successes and failures over the past golf season. We all spend part of our winter preparation time coming up with new programs and adjustments to our agronomic plans. How can I make my Golf Maintenance Operation better, more efficient? It’s time to come up with another of the Superintendent’s List of New Year’s Resolutions. In no particular order:

#### **Be Nicer to Staff**

Most of the people who work in the Golf Maintenance Industry are barely making a living wage. Yet, we expect them to perform at a high level, doing heavy, physical labor at the crack of dawn and in all kinds of weather. Yes, we still have high standards to uphold, because that’s what our golfers expect. And yes, we have to do more with less, because that’s the “new world economic order” of things. As my old Hoosier boss liked to say, “Chuck you can catch more flies with honey”.

#### **Raise Mowing Heights**

A few years ago, we all used to say to ourselves how low can we go and how frequently can we cut it? Now, the new economic mentality is how high can I get away with and what’s the least I need to cut it? It has been my experience that green, healthy grass is always preferred over the dead, brown variety. I still remember from Turf 101 that a higher leaf height will provide more root mass. This could be a good thing if the “sh#@ hits the fan.” Let’s face it; most players would prefer to sweep the ball instead of picking it.

#### **Communicate More**

Tell everybody around you what you are going to do, when you are going to do it, and how you are going to do it. Tell them with email, in person, tweet, blogs, memos, set up meetings, write news-letters, make phone calls, and/or text. Create a scenario of full transparency. Then do it.

#### **Set Up Course Easier**

As we know, most golfers are not as good as they think they are. There is a lot of LOFT (Lack of %#@ talent). Let’s make the game more fun and speed up play with easier hole locations,

keep the rough cut lower, slow greens down (just a little), widen fairways, cut trees down, and set up the courses shorter. If people have more fun, they might play more. This is good for golf.

#### **Play More Golf**

This is one of the reasons we all got in this business. You will see more of your course, or other courses. You might learn something. Take notes. Depending on your game, you might see places you would never think to look. You will get a much better look around and see the details of your course with a four-hour round than zipping around in your cart in a 30-minute lap. It’s a great place to conduct meetings about the course. It will build up your street cred.

#### **Be More Involved with the MAGCS**

Join a committee; it’s not too late (ask Luke). Give something back to the Association and the game. The people you work for might be impressed. It’s extra credit points.

#### **Be More Environmentally Friendly**

Turn off light switches, use power strips, recycle more, use more eco friendly products, switch out incandescent bulbs for fluorescents, encourage other staff to help out and be an example, plant native plants. Have an audit done on your irrigation system to improve efficiency. Improve overall operational efficiency and help keep costs down.

#### **Give More**

Contribute more to charities, churches, and other not-for-profit organizations. Give more time to your family and friends. The more you give, the more you get back. Pay it forward.

#### **Be More Patient**

Chill out, life’s short. Everyone has their own pace for accomplishing tasks. It’s just grass.

#### **Have More Fun**

The “fun meter” in this business went down a few years after 9/11, when we first started to do more with less. People come to golf courses for recreation and fun (I think). Let’s set the example. Make your guests feel more welcome. Customer service is extra important in a time when customer retention is the key to successful operations. Nothing says that more than a simple smile and wave.

There it is: something to think about. Let’s make it a great year. Good luck, and see you at the MAGCS Meetings. **-OC**

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# Are You Using the right 2-Cycle Engine Oil?

About ten years ago, some two-cycle engine manufacturers came together with the Industrial Standardization Organization and standardized the two-cycle oil to be used in their products. That standard became known as **ISO L-E** standard. They also needed a way to test two-cycle oil and have it certified. This is where **JASO** certification comes in. **JASO** stands for Japanese Automotive Standard Organization.

The current ISO L standard is ISO L-EGD and the JASO certification is JASO FC. Just because a two-cycle engine oil label says that it meets and exceeds the ISO L-EGD standard does not necessarily mean that it does. It needs the JASO certification on the label, along with the certification number, to truly meet and exceed the ISO standard.

These specifications are much like the SAE and API classifications on engine oil for your car or truck. As long as the ISO standard and JASO certification appear on the label, you can use it in any two-cycle engine that powers a blower, chainsaw, lawnmower, snowblower, stingtrimmer, etc., regardless of what oil-to-gas ratio it uses (32:1, 40:1, 50:1, etc.).

The standardization of two-cycle oil is important because of federal Environmental Protection Agency regulations as well as C.A.R.B. (California Air Resource Board) standards. With the more stringent emissions requirements, the engine manufacturers realized it was necessary to have a two-cycle oil that was standard for the outdoor power equipment (OPE) industry. The leaned out fuel systems did not allow much tolerance for error when it came down to gas oil ratios or the wrong oil.

Two-cycle oil for an outboard marine motor is not the same as for outdoor power equipment. Nor is two-cycle oil for outdoor power equipment the same as for outboard marine engines. The marine motor is cooled by water, and OPE equipment is cooled by air. The marine engine runs at a lower speed at full throttle. A chainsaw could rev up to over 10,000 rpm.

The next time you pick up some two-cycle oil for your outdoor power equipment, look for the JASO certification and make sure your using the right two-cycle oil.

The following is an excerpt from Stihl's website on their 2-cycle engine oil: <http://www.stihlusa.com>

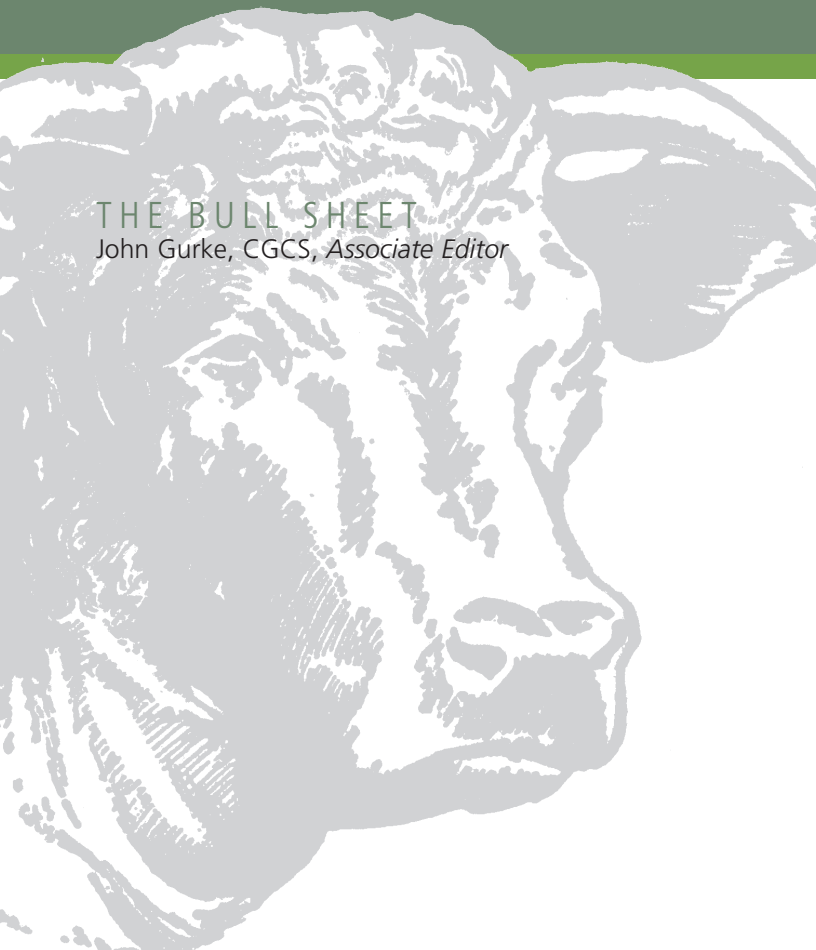
## Low Smoke Oil

**STIHL's** Low Smoke Oil blend of 2-cycle engine oil has all the features and benefits of High-Performance oil, but with reduced smoke in the exhaust. **It meets and exceeds the ISO L-EGD Standard and is JASO FC certified.** It provides superior bearing and piston lubrication at high temperatures, protects against piston scuffing and seizure, and keeps rings and ports free of carbon build-up. Available in 2.6 oz., 6.4 oz., 12.8 oz. and 1 gallon or 5 gallon pails.

## STIHL High Performance 2-cycle Engine Oil

STIHL 2-cycle oils are premium-quality, conventional petroleum based engine oils designed to deliver the highest levels of engine protection in modern, high-performance, air-cooled 2-cycle engines. They contain a pour depressant to aid in low temperature applications and a mixing agent (solvent) to aid in mixing with gasoline. STIHL oils are fully compatible with oxygenated fuels. **-OC**





**THE BULL SHEET**  
John Gurke, CGCS, Associate Editor

# March 2010

## DATES TO REMEMBER

- March 4 – Emerald Ash Borer Action Plans free seminar at Aquascapes Designs in St. Charles, IL.  
.....
- March 6 – CDGA's Club Leadership Conference at Medinah Country Club, **Curtis Tyrrell, CGCS** host.  
.....
- March 10 – Chicagoland Forum 2010 at Naperville Country Club, **Tim Anderson, CGCS, MG**, Club Manager and Chief Bottle Washer host.  
.....
- March 6-14 – Chicago Flower & Garden Show at Navy Pier in Chicago, IL.  
.....
- March 12 – Reinders Open House at the Franklin Park facility, 3816 Carnation St., Franklin Park, 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 on your internet-connected computer.  
.....
- April 11-14 – International Conference on Turfgrass in Angers, France (in case you're in the neighborhood).  
.....
- April 27 – MAGCS monthly meeting at Joliet Country Club, **Mark Kowaliczko** host.  
.....
- May 2 — JW Turf's Annual Equipment Auction and Consignment Sale at the JW Turf headquarters in Hampshire, IL.  
.....

Congratulations to St. Charles Country Club's **Josh Therrien**, who was appointed to the Class C Advisory Committee chair, to **Nick Baker** of Chicagoland Turf, who has been appointed to the Class E Advisor's position on the MAGCS board of directors; and to **Dan Charlton** of Evanston Golf Club who was appointed to fill out the remainder of **Harry Lovero's** term on the board. Best of luck, and thank you to the three of you for volunteering your time and effort. And why not—congrats to President Witte for surviving the ordeal of having to fill 3 vacancies at once!



*L-R: Josh Therrien, Nick Baker, Dan Charlton and Harry Lovero*

Congratulations to Medinah Country Club (**Curtis Tyrrell, CGCS**) and Olympia Fields Country Club (**Sam MacKenzie, CGCS**) on making *GolfWorld* magazine's 100 Best Golf Shops list, both in the Private category. Slow news month.  
.....

Need a USGA Handicap for 2010? Please let Luke know (luke@magcs.org) and he will set you up with one through the CDGA - one of the many member benefits of MAGCS.  
.....

Also kudos to past MAGCS president (1984) Roger Stewart, CGCS on winning the GCSAA/*Golf Digest* Environmental Leaders in Golf Award for 2009. Roger is superintendent at TPC Twin Cities just outside Minneapolis/St. Paul, MN, and accepted the award in the National Private category.  
.....

*(continued on page 18)*



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And congratulations to **Paul Schaefer, CGCS** of Prairie Isle Golf Club on achieving his recertification with GCSAA in January.

**Roger Johnson** has a new business card—ROJ Turf Equipment is Roger's new company, which handles T.I.P. Inc. products as well as Buffalo Turbine, LLC offerings. Congratulations and best of luck to Roger.

A belated welcome to the mainland goes to **Dan Mosblack, CGCS** who made the move from Janesville Country Club up there in the hinterland to Klein Creek Golf Club.

This just in: Billy Casper Golf last month took over operations of Water's Edge Golf Course (**Jason Lemanski** superintendent), replacing the previous management team of Kemper Golf.

Sadly, Midwest Irrigation lost a true friend last month. Ken Holthaus, who was an integral part of growing the irrigation industry and developing the techniques used today in design and installation of irrigation systems passed away on February 1st. Ken began his career with Midwest in 1965, and worked there until shortly before Christmas of 2009, and truly enjoyed his associations with all the golf course superintendents with whom he worked. Condolences to Ken's family and friends, and to the folks at Midwest Irrigation.

In happier irrigation news, Rain Bird Golf has announced that Rain Bird Services Corporation of Illinois/Wisconsin is the new distributor for their golf product line. RBSC has a sales team of talented individuals (and familiar faces) in **Scott Pace**—District Golf Sales Manager, and **Kevin West**—Golf Senior Sales Specialist, who have a combined 35 years of irrigation experience. Congratulations to Scott and Kevin, who might finally be nearing the end of answering the question, "What's going on with you guys?"

Sometimes all the schooling in the world still can't make a person smart. Case in point, **Rusty Stachlewitz**, noted MSU alum and scholar extraordinaire recently decided that it would be a good idea to go swimming. Outdoors. In Michigan. In February. Alright, there was motivation for this craziness—the Stanton Polar Plunge, which took place on a brisk 20-something-degree day last month, was a fundraising event that benefited Special Olympics Michigan, a cause Rusty is near and dear to. He survived, with the only battle scar being some expected shrinkage (which he fears may be permanent), and he thanks all his MAGCS friends for their donations.



*Rusty and friends prepare for the plunge...*



*There are no words for this. None.*

Your association's president took a plunge of a different kind recently. **Scott Witte, CGCS** and his wife Sue were one of two competing couples in a pilot for a potential television series called "Kitchen Rivals," where the competitors enjoy a dish prepared by a professional chef, are then given all the ingredients that went into the dish, and then must recreate the dish using their culinary skills. And there's a catch—one extra ingredient that was not in the original recipe is added to the cart, and they must also figure out which it was and not use it. But don't trust me for the details—go to [www.kitchenrivals.com](http://www.kitchenrivals.com) and click on About the Show in the bottom left corner and have a look. By the way, the Wittes won, and Scott claims his chili cookoff victory from last year was the impetus that drove him down this road to culinary success.

The 16th of this month brings Dr. Peter Dernoeden of Colorado State University to Midwest Golf House for the MAGCS March monthly meeting. Dr. Dernoeden's topics will cover "The Nature of Dollar Spot and its Management: Research Meets Reality" (1.5 hours), "Managing Greens Under Summer Stress" (1.5 hours), and "Tenacity: A New Herbicide for Golf Courses" (45 minutes). Following his presentation and lunch, CDGA's **Keith Rincker, MS** and **Dr. Derek Settle** will present the results of their various research plots on Sunshine Course. GCSAA Education Points have been applied for, so make plans to attend.

The February issue of GCM had a nice article by **Dr. Tom Voigt** and Dr. Zac Reicher called "When Ornamental Grasses Aren't," about the tendency of many ornamental grasses to

aggressively grow beyond their intended sites, and the control measures available to curb them. Check out pages 84 through 90 to find out the exciting results.



Dr. Tom Voigt

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If you're gearing up for another season of golf and all the anxiety that chasing that little white ball around inspires, Srixon may have just the tonic for that bubbly-gurgly feeling you get while standing over a 5-foot putt (no reference to **Tim Scott** intended here). The company's new yellow-green Z-Star golf ball "has a slight green hue to it, and studies of color have shown that the color green tends to produce a more relaxed state of mind," according to media and public relations manager Keith Patterson. This would explain my 2-handicap on the range tee versus my 22 on the course, no doubt.

Don't forget the International Golf Course Equipment Manufacturers Association's Virtual Trade Show on the 18th through the 20th taking place on your desktop, laptop, net-book, smart phone, or any other thing you can connect to the internet. Event partners Jacobsen, John Deere, and Toro along with many other exhibitors will take part in this three-dimensional trade show floor with booths that will have links to expanded, downloadable information on products and services. Likewise, each exhibitor will have a live representative available for chat and Q and A sessions 24 hours per day throughout the duration of the show. This sounds pretty cool. And inexpensive!

As March transitions us back to our real world, and the winter's snow gives way to the green grass of spring (hopefully), we look back upon winter with fondness for the opportunities it afforded us, whether to recharge our batteries, take that vacation, check out the show in San Diego, or whatever diversions we were able to enjoy. We are constantly finding ourselves answering the age-old question, "What do you do in winter?" with the stock "Plan for next season, assess last season's programs and tweak them for this coming year, catch up on continuing education, evaluate personnel performance, etc. etc. etc." as a reply. While these are all perfectly true, it is also true that we are able to do the things that we cannot find the time to do during the golf season. With that, let's pay homage to winter's blessings—and the great things it allows us to do... Some of us don't have to stray very far from home to find things to do in

winter, like the group of MAGCS members who formed a hockey team aptly named the Grassholes. Although the games were late at night, and the scores were typically not in their favor, they had more fun than the other guys and looked better doing it.



The beginnings of Grassholes go way back, with the original goalie being rock-solid, except for a weak five-hole.



But then **Harry Lovero** took over between the pipes and goaltending for the Grassholes was never the same again.



(continued on page 20)

Some guys found their winter diversion right in their own back yard, like **Dr. Derek Settle** at Sunshine Course.



or in this case the trees.



Hard to imagine what these helmets are protecting in this group!



Others found that getting away was their elixir, whether to head south to laze in a hammock on a tropical isle,



or to head north for a big ol' snowmobile trip, getting all psyched to hit the trails . . .



while some other guys stay at work and cut down trees that they planted 15 years earlier.



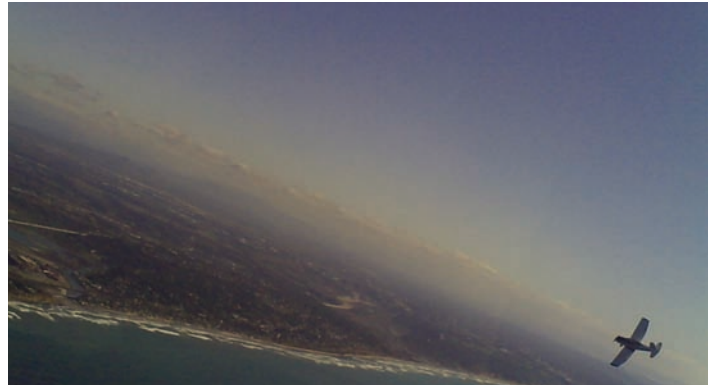
Hey, some guys use winter just to catch up on their sleep, dreaming strange dreams like Sumo wrestling with the Pillsbury Doughboy...



Some other guys get all artsy-fartsy and take pretty pictures of their golf courses that they hope will make them a million dollars getting published in a coffee table book ...



...while still others choose to defy death, doing nutty things like bungee jumping, polar plunging, or dogfighting over San Diego like **Mark Kosbab**, **Pat Maksymiu**, and **Joel Purpur**...



... and **Nick Marfise**, shown here in his Varga 21 before pulling 3 G's and becoming Nick Barf-ise.



Then some guys go all Hollywood, chasing their dream to be seen on the big screen, like **Doug Davis** did when he auditioned for and got a part in "Public Enemies" last year, and like **Andy Weadge** did, seen here auditioning for the lead role in the upcoming "The Hangover 2."



How can you not like winter?

.....

(continued on page 22)

Speaking of Andy Weadge, the following piece of equipment is for sale: Jacobsen Greens King, possibly gas, possibly diesel, many extras, some work required –make Andy an offer.



## CLASSIFIEDS

**Equipment For Sale:** Another way to ease your budgets is to take a look at these fabulous offerings from your fellow superintendents:

- Park Ridge Country Club has the following items on the block: 1 Jacobsen LF 3400 Fairway Mower, year 2000, 3916 hours, asking \$4,900 OBO; 1 Ryan GA-60 Aerifier, year 2000, 261 hours, asking \$2,500 OBO; 1 Ford 250C Diesel Tractor with torque converter transmission, 1650 hours, asking \$8,000 OBO; 1 Ford 231 Tractor, 7137 hours, asking \$3,500 OBO. Call **Nick Marfise** at 708-224-8829 for details.
- Lincolnshire Country Club is selling a Tycrop MH400 Material Handler with only 20 hours of use, in excellent condition, with conveyer belt attachment included. Give **Brian Racette** or Harry a call at 708-672-5709 for information.
- And last but not least, a first-time-ever for this magazine. White Pines Golf Course has a Package Sewage Treatment Plant for sale. This is a membrane bioreactor package treatment plant with ultraviolet disinfection system and a 10,000-gallon per day capacity. It is a compact alternative to septic systems and aeration/settlement ponds. Equipment is housed in a modular concrete building with a 30'x8' footprint, and is manufactured by Enviroquip of Austin, Texas. It was originally installed in the fall of 2005 at a cost of \$300,000. The asking price is \$150,000. Contact **Steve Partyka** at 630-768-0906 or email him at partykasteve@yahoo.com.

## The Golf Industry Show Recap

The GCSAA Education Conference in conjunction with the Golf Industry Show took place last month in San Diego, CA from the 8th through the 12th. A few days prior, some business was conducted out in Palm Springs where the National Championship & Golf Classic were held, and our MAGCS contingent represented us admirably! In the Championship itself, **Tim Scott, CGCS** of Stony Creek Golf Course was runner-up to victor Adam Hess, losing on the first hole of a playoff after making a rare bogey lipping out a 5-footer.



*Tim Scott begins to line up the fateful 5-footer.*



*Tim much more comfortable doing the things he gets paid for each day.*

**Justin VanLanduit** of Briarwood Country Club placed fourth, and **Dave Kohley** of Silver Lake Country Club finished 18th. In the Golf Classic, MAGCS had the following top ten finishers: Gross IV—**Brian Mores** 3rd; Net IV—Brian Mores 2nd; Gross V—**Steve VanAcker, CGCS** 8th; Net V—Steve VanAcker, CGCS 5th and **Paul Schaefer, CGCS** 9th; Gross VI—**Don Cross, CGCS** 6th; Net VI—Don Cross, CGCS 8th; Gross Senior—**Tommy Witt, CGCS** 1st; Net Senior **Bob Maibusch, CGCS**, MG 1st and Tommy Witt, CGCS 3rd; Gross Senior II—**Tim Davis** 2nd, **Ed Fischer, CGCS** 3rd, and **Tom Van De Walle** 7th; Senior II Net—Tom Van De Walle 6th and Tim Davis 7th; Super Senior Gross—**Bob Kronn** 1st; Super Senior Net—Bob Kronn 6th. The news was even better in the Chapter Competition, where two MAGCS teams took first place honors—Team Midwest 4 (**Al Fierst, Don Cross, Bob Maibusch, and Tommy Witt**) won the Net Division while Team Midwest 2 (**Tim Scott, Dave Kohley, Tommy Robinson, and Justin Van Landuit**) took the Gross Division. Congratulations to all of these competitors! But enough about that.



On it was to San Diego for the Show. On first impression, the trade show was a bustling beehive of activity—booths were full of product reps and potential customers alike, the aisles were crowded with attendees, and things generally appeared positive. A nice new feature—the Happy Hour on Thursday afternoon—was a terrific way to wrap things up. The new format, whereby no competing sessions took place during the shortened 2-day trade show was a big hit with most all attendees, as there was really no “down time” compared to past shows (where exhibitors likened Saturdays to a “ghost town”). It didn’t hurt that the show floor was long and narrow, concentrating foot traffic through the main aisle and adding to the appearance of a packed room. Another factor contributing to this appearance was that many exhibitors rented smaller booth space than previous years, evidenced by the total booth space area of 204,300 square feet rented this year compared to 257,900 square feet in New Orleans (and over 300,000 in Orlando). The reality of it, though, told a slightly less optimistic story. Some preliminary numbers show that attendance was around 16,156 versus 17,151 in New Orleans last year (another “down” year), and the all-time high of 25,737 in Orlando in 2008. Around 7,000 “qualified buyers” attended this show—almost identical to last year, but down over 3,000 from 2008; and 665 exhibitors were on hand this year compared to 765 in 2008—a significant 13% drop off. But enough about that.

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The General Sessions and Special Events were a big hit, featuring such renowned presenters as Dr. Brian Little—part scholar, part stand-up comic, and Chris Gardner, best-selling author of *The Pursuit of Happyness* and the subject of the Will Smith film by the same title. At the Annual Meeting, held on the 12th, the elections were conducted, and James R. Fitzroy, CGCS was named our president for 2010. Filling out the executive committee were Robert Randquist, CGCS for vice president and Sanford G. Queen for secretary/treasurer. As for the educational portion of the conference, MAGCS was represented quite well, with **Chuck Anfield, CGCS, Dr. Bruce Branham, John Ekstrom, Jon Jennings, CGCS, Erwin McKone, Bruce Williams, CGCS** and **Tommy Witt, CGCS** sharing their expertise in an array of topics. But enough about that.

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The main event of the week—the can’t miss event—was the MAGCS Hospitality Reception held at the Solamar Hotel on Wednesday evening. This year’s rendition differed slightly from years past, with the event taking place on an outdoor terrace high above the streets of San Diego. Wow! HUGE kudos to **Luke Cella** and **Sharon Riesenbeck** on making all the arrangements (each of whom selflessly credits the other). The food, drink, and overall ambience were superior. And our members continued with their generous giving, adding over \$1,800 more dollars to the MAGCS Scholarship Fund through the raffle tickets sold at the door. We thank the volunteers who helped at check-in, Sharon and Luke, and our totally awesome sponsors for their part in the huge success of this year’s reception. When you have the opportunity, please thank the following 2010 Golden Tee Sponsors for their generosity:

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(continued on next page)



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## TRIBUTE

Sam Mackenzie, CGCS, Olympia Fields CC

# Farewell to a Friend

*The Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents lost a twenty-eight year member on January 16th of this year. Gary Galecki was the longtime Golf Course Superintendent at Ridge Country Club on Chicago's south side. More importantly, he was a fine husband, father and brother to his family as well as good friend to the many people who knew him.*

Gary lived his entire life in La Grange, Illinois. He was the fifth of six children to Ed and Joan Galecki. His father was a carpenter and his mother worked as an administrative clerk. Together they raised their family in a house his father built on Brianard Avenue, just across the street from La Grange Country Club (LCC). For most of his life Gary didn't stray far from that address; in fact, on the day he passed away, he lived just two blocks east of his childhood home.

While growing up, Gary got his first taste of golf by caddying and then working on the grounds crew at LCC. At age 15, during the 1974 U.S. Women's Open held at LCC, Gary had the opportunity to caddy for Sandra Palmer. He enjoyed the experience but described it as "a tough loop", as Palmer did not win.

Gary attended St. Cletus and then Lyons Township High School (LT). By many accounts he was an excellent athlete playing both baseball and golf.

A life long friend, Mike Scheer remembered Gary, "as a four year letterman in golf at LT, always ranking among the top three on the team." In college Gary was a walk on for the Utah State golf team.

When college in Utah wasn't the answer, he came home and started working at Timber Trails Golf Course for Don Hoffman. One of his first jobs was night waterman. He learned golf maintenance from the ground up and by the time he left he was one of Don's assistants. He went on to attend Rutgers University and graduated from their turf program in 1983.

While at Timber Trails, Gary met his wife of nearly 30 years, Grace. She worked as a starter at the club. They have two children, Josh and Jenna. Both of them were excellent



*Josh, Grace, Gary and Jenna Galecki.*



athletes in their own right - Joshua excelled in baseball, football and basketball, and Jenna was an excellent gymnast. Like most of us, Gary was proud and supportive of his children's endeavors. Whenever he and I would talk, our conversations eventually centered on the kids. He was so proud of their accomplishments on and off their respective fields of play.

Gary's pride was on full display this past fall when Josh and Glen (Gary's older brother), ran in the Chicago Marathon. They ran to raise money for cancer research and to support Gary. Even on a cold October day and as sick as he was, Gary was determined to be there to catch a glimpse of his son and brother crossing the finish line. The story has it that the 27 year old Josh had a slightly longer day than his 61-year old uncle. Glen said "Josh started the race in the group in front of me but somewhere along the way I passed him and I put my name on the finish line first."

However, Glen told me that he spent the rest of the day recovering in his hotel room with Gary while Josh recovered from the race in a bar with his girlfriend. Sounds like Josh may have had the last laugh. At any rate, it was a great day for the Galecki's.

In the spring of 1983 Gary became Bob Maibusch's assistant and spent five years at the Hinsdale Golf Club. According to Bob, Gary started just a few months after he did and "they learned the course together, on the job." Bob added, "Gary worked his ass off in those early years and he was one of my best assistants."

In 1988 Ridge Country Club hired Gary as their Golf Course Superintendent. It was the start of a 21-year run at the south side club. The club sits at 103rd and California on only 97 acres

and plays just 6224 yards. Gary spent those years shaping the grounds into one of the most beautifully manicured and wonderfully challenging golf courses you might play. My recollection is that he rebuilt the bunkers twice, built countless tees, created a short game area and added a new irrigation system. His last Grounds Chairman Joe Ryan added, "no one has ever done more with 100 acres than Gary." Gary's flowers became legendary. He had a tremendous ability to combine annuals and perennials to create some of the most stunningly beautiful flower and landscape beds.

While it was difficult for him to get around during the last year Gary never stopped going to work. The members at Ridge respected and cared for Gary a great deal. Mr. Ryan explained, "In my 24 years at Ridge, there was no doubt in my mind whose golf course it really was. It wasn't the member's course, it was Gary's. During my two years as President I never questioned his decisions, he was our expert."

I met Gary at Butler National in the spring of 1982 where we both were doing our internships for Oscar Miles. His easy going personality and quiet sense of humor were easy to like. We became friends almost immediately. It's funny how life takes

you down a path and something seemingly as small as a friendship can have such a profound impact on your life. Eventually he and Grace would introduce me to Grace's sister Sally, whom I would marry and have two sons with. That probably wouldn't have happened had I not met Gary.

Over a lifetime we meet all sorts of folks, some good and some not so good. Gary truly was one of the good ones. As most who knew him well would confirm, he was a kind and generous person who gave his friendship easily. I've always felt lucky to have counted him as one of my friends. I know my life is made better by knowing him and hopefully in some small measure I returned the same in kind.

During the coming months, especially as we get into the golf season, I will think of him when something out of the ordinary pops up. He was a close confidant and we would call each other with our problems. He won't be there this time to listen to me whine about a dilemma on the course or complain about the weather. I take some comfort in knowing he doesn't have to worry about such mundane things anymore, but I also know that will be the day I will truly miss him the most. **-OC**



*Gary and his crew from Ridge CC.*



*Gary, far left in his early days at Hinsdale Golf Club.  
Below, Gary's famed flowers outside Ridge CC.*



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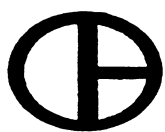
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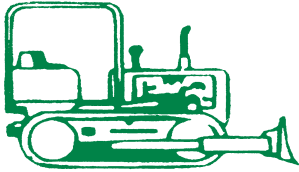
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