

THE MIDWEST ASSOCIATION OF GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS

September 2011

Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents 11855 Archer Ave. Lemont, IL 60439

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#### INSIDE

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Subtle undulations in a rolling fairway can make an "easy" shot not so simple when your balance is off, a design feature of Perry Maxwell.

#### FRONT COVER

Most golf courses display our flag somewhere on the property. Does yours? If so, send us a picture - this one happened to be from out west, and is a fitting cover to compliment Brian Placzkowski's feature. 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.

All editorial and advertisement inquiries should be directed to Luke Cella, Publisher, *On Course*. 11855 Archer Avenue, Lemont, IL, 60439. (630) 243-7900 or visit www.magcs.org for rates and requirements Statements of fact and opinion are the responsibility of the authors alone and do not imply an opinion on the part of the officers or members.



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#### DIRECTOR'S COLUMN Dave Groelle, CGCS, *Royal Melbourne Country Club*



# Midwest Turf Clinic Takes Shape

As I write this we are nearing the end of another tough Chicago summer. It has been a long season and we are all hoping we are on the down-hill side of the climb. I'm sure the last thing on your mind is the educational program on tap for the 58<sup>th</sup> Annual Midwest Turf Clinic. However, Chuck Barber and I have been working diligently throughout the season on the program, in the hopes of creating an educational and entertaining day for all in attendance.

The program will feature Paul Vermeulen, Director of Competitions Agronomy for the PGA Tour and Tim Moraghan, former Championship Agronomist with the USGA and current Principal of Aspire Golf Consulting. Paul will be discussing the TOUR's tournament preparations, and in particular, how they approach the dual challenges of green speed and putting green firmness. Tim will be

discussing a variety of topics that include everyday championship agronomy, what works and what doesn't. He will also go into career development, interviewing do's and don'ts, and generally wow us with his wealth of knowledge.

Curtis Tyrrell, CGCS of Medinah Country Club will also share with us some of the preparations Medinah will make in advance of the Ryder Cup in 2012. This will be a terrific event for the Chicago golf market and put the world golf spotlight in our area for a few days next year.

It will be a great day of education highlighted by respected individuals of our industry.

Jan Jarvis of Master of the Links will be our National Anthem performer again this year. I promise you this is a performance you will NOT want to miss. I can't believe how lucky we are to have a performer like Jan share his talents with us. Jim Cornelison of Chicago Blackhawks fame has nothing on our guy Jan!

As is customary, the event will be held at Medinah Country Club on Wednesday, November 16, 2011. There will be much more on tap so please mark your calendars for this great event. There is no shortage of things to do between now and the Turf Clinic and I hope to see you at one of the MAGCS sponsored events: The iTurfExpo on September 22 at Midwest Golf House, the Midwest October Meeting hosted by John Nelson and Merit Club on October 3, and the joint educational meeting with the Club Managers Association on October 11 at Stonebridge Country Club. **-OC** 



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Waukegan 2216 N. Greenbay Road Waukegan, IL 60087 (847) 336-1205 Frankfort 10351 W. Laraway Road Frankfort, IL 60423 (815) 464-6650 FEATURE I Gregory Martin, *Martin Design* 

# Magic is not Obvious but Infectious



Golf course architects come in many shapes and sizes, from different places and with different perspectives. Golf course architecture should be a reflection of the wonderful variety this game provides. The game of golf is played on distinct and unique playing fields—and architectural variety is what makes the game so grand.

This is nothing new. Golden age architects, Bell, Tillinghast, Ross, McKenzie each had a unique style and offered varying perspectives on how golf course architecture should react to the land and expose the game. But their success was based upon some simple and shared ideas about golf and golfers.

Architectural perspectives still come in different shapes and sizes. This variance is what gives golfers the fodder for discussion about golf courses and golf course architecture.

I have the greatest admiration for Pete Dye. He has created some of the most extraordinary golf courses of the modern era. His "diabolical" efforts have been examined, dissected and detailed. The professional player is harassed and the average golfer besieged. Some of his more distinctive

designs were those that offered an extraordinary level of intimidation. From all angles, there was much to observe, much to understand and a lot to digest. Beautiful and engaging, these courses like TPC Sawgrass, Whistling Straits and PGA West are oddly harmonious while simultaneously menacing - bombarding every golfer with continued dread.

Interestingly, golfers of all types have had great rounds on these golf courses. This past year, a professional posted a 64 at TPC Sawgrass, even with a double bogey. He played as if with blinders, never seeing the trouble or allowing that trouble to affect his play. When I played there, I began my round with a series of pars, a bogey and a birdie. I was even



after eight holes. On the ninth hole, I made a mistake, and never regained a level of the most basic competence – overwhelmed and fearful for the next 9 holes I became a terrified golfer.

His designs are equal parts strategy, heroism and pressure. Play the right shot to the right spot and you can play well: do not let the massive bunkers, steep grades, or insidious hazards affect your play. Play the wrong shot, or play to the wrong spot and you will be penalized. Simple, right? But once you make a mistake, the blinders are off. You will see everything and it will interfere with clear thinking. Only the most talented thoughtful golfers can recover. This is the genius of Pete Dye.

I am an admirer of Pete Dye, but my design philosophies come from

the opposite direction. My instincts as an architect are to allow the golfer to 'play away' with little care, and a wide berth, but generate subtleties and surprises that offer challenges enticing and goading the golfer into carelessness. Each shot is presented with challenges, some easier than the next, and each providing subtle demands requiring attention, or even recovery. I believe golf should be a challenge - equal parts fun, strategy and difficulty. Other architects use different equations.

These same philosophies are inherent in the designs of Perry Maxwell. He managed to create some wonderful golf

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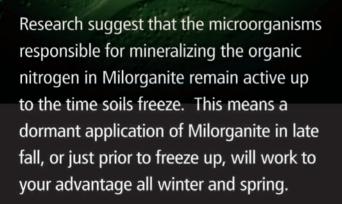
Agronomic Sales: Chicago South: Paul Yerkes, 630-514-9373 Chicago North: Charles Hill, 630-768-9275 courses that adhere to strategic principles while providing a simply beautiful challenge. It is both fair and tough. The Maxwell rolls are the most notable aspect of his courses. The greens are filled with pitches and curves, rolls and ridges. Yet, even with these heavily contoured greens there is subtlety and nuance to his designs; there is charm and timelessness that is revealed slowly and evenly. The course grows as a friendship, with characteristics that are at the same time polite and puzzling. There is magic to these golf courses. The challenges are not obvious, but they certainly exist. That magic is charming.

Every golfer should learn to read a golf course...to take the clues from the architect and determine how the hole should be played. Pete Dye offers lots of clues that are intended to overwhelm the senses. Perry Maxwell provides few clues, but with equally destructive results.

Like magic, good golf course architecture does not have to be obvious. It can be obvious and menacing, or it can be subtle, simple and simultaneously captivating. **-OC** 









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#### FEATURE II

Brian Placzkowski, Royal Melbourne Country Club

# Not Your Average Bunker

I've read before that golf mimics life or maybe life mimics golf. Since I've become the Assistant at Royal Melbourne, I've found many parallels between our profession and a part of my life. As we all know, this month marks the ten-year anniversary of 9/11. This tragic day has touched all of us in many different ways. This day holds particular significance with me, because nine years ago this month I found my naive, Midwest, suburban behind in the middle of the hottest, dirtiest, scariest Afghani desert I would have never thought to imagine. You might wonder what the heck I was doing there. I was on deployment with Task Force Panther of the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division. Over the next six months as an infantryman in the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion 504<sup>th</sup> Parachute Infantry Regiment, I would experience good and bad events that will stay with me for the rest of my life. I often have people ask me, "What was it like?" It's not that I don't want to talk about it, but I don't always know what to say. You see, there's not much that I can compare it to that they would understand, and many people walk away confused. You might wonder how, but in only my second season as an assistant superintendent at Royal Melbourne Country Club, I've found a surprising amount of similarities between being a soldier in Afghanistan and an assistant superintendent in the Midwest (no offense Dave!) and I thought I'd take a minute and share a few with you.

The biggest thing the Army prepared me for was this whole early to bed early to rise mentality. I commonly saw the sunrise, set, and rise again all without ever going to bed. After long summers like the last two, I sometimes feel the same way. The biggest thing I had to get used to was not having to put on body armor and carry a rifle to the bathroom in the morning. Another likeness I've noticed is the shocking similarities between scouting for diseases on hot muggy mornings and climbing through the mountains looking for the Taliban. You can run into them at any place and time and when you do it almost always means it's going to be a long day. The only thing is, Pythium doesn't shoot back.

My favorite comparison is when you find yourself in a foreign country, trying to provide a service to help people who don't speak your language... is very similar to dealing with golfers who want to know why the greens are slow, why their balls plug in the bunker, and why we aerate the golf course every year. Both missions start with the best of intentions and end with people walking away shaking their heads. And then there's wanting to jump out of a perfectly good airplane. Well, on second thought I haven't quite found anything to compare that to except maybe going to a green committee meeting, but If I think of something better I'll let you know. Both missions start with the best intentions and end with people walking away shaking their heads.

This September 11<sup>th</sup> take a minute and whether you thank a soldier, thank a firefighter or thank God, take a moment and be thankful for the great country we live in and for all the brave men and women everywhere in any capacity that fight hard every day to preserve it. **-OC** 





# 2011 iTurf Expo Preview

The calendar has flipped to September and hopefully all of the torrential downpours and oppressive heat remain a faint memory until next summer. With the arrival of cooler temperatures, area golf courses can jump-start plant health through heavy doses of cultural practices. Fall projects such as drainage, overseed-ing, and tree removal are gearing up to lessen the effects of another extreme growing season. Another crucial tool turfgrass professionals can use to educate and prepare for the 2012 season is the iTurf Expo, an event sponsored by the Illinois Turfgrass Foundation, the CDGA, U of I and SIU.

The 2011 iTurf Expo will once again be held on the Sunshine Golf Course located at the Midwest Golf House Complex in Lemont, IL on September 22. The iTurf Expo presents a great medium for interactive training and education, as well as networking with peers and other industry professionals on successful practices for 2011 and improvement strategies for 2012. Not only is it a great "one stop shop" to see new or updated equipment and products being offered for turf professionals across all turf

trades, it is also a valuable opportunity to listen to unbiased research on diseases, turfgrass varieties, and annual flowers.

With the help of the CDGA Turfgrass Program and Dr. Derek Settle, The Illinois Turfgrass Foundation (ITF) has bought together some of the most highly respected educational minds in the turfgrass industry. Dr. Settle developed a very well rounded educational program for the golf course superintendent, assistant golf course superintendent and the industry that support our courses. Every year, the ITF looks to improve the experience for attendees while at the iTurf Expo, and this year's line up of researchers should not disappoint.

Dr. Jim Kerns from the University of Wisconsin will share his research, "Everything Dollar Spot." Dr. Kerns research discusses the suppression of dollar spot through different fungicidal families, rates, intervals, and growth regulators. He will also present a new dollar spot model, in collaboration with Oklahoma State University, in which dollar spot outbreaks may be predicted in the future.

Dr. Aaron Patton from Purdue University will be presenting his research, "Selective control of creeping bentgrass and other weeds in golf course roughs." With his research Dr. Patton focuses on planning, implementing, and leading projects devoted to managing quality lawn, sod, golf, and



sports turf while reducing management inputs.

Dr. Lee Miller (will return to his old stomping grounds) from the University of Missouri will examine how DMI fungicides can be used for fairy ring prevention and how spring DMI applications combined with wetting agents and PGRs work into a greens' management program.

Dr. Bruce Branham from the University of Illinois and Dr. Ken Diesburg from Southern Illinois

University will be on hand to discuss problems and current research that are specific to turfgrass professionals in Illinois.

Tim Sibicky, Manager of Research for the CDGA will discuss, "Multi-State Evaluation of Dollar Spot Susceptibility in Creeping Bentrgrass Cultivars." Mr. Sibicky's research findings and analysis are usually presented in parts for weekly CDGA Scouting Report, but at the iTurf Expo he will be able to fully expand on his research.

Dr. Settle, Director of Turfgrass Programs for the CDGA, will present his research "Waitea Gone Wild- Research Experience of Early Summer 2011" and "Testing Newer Fungicides for Disease Control on Golf Course Greens." Dr. Settle's research, along with information gained from numerous site visits during the past two difficult growing seasons, will combine for an invaluable presentation.

With all of the research and expertise available at the 2011 iTurf Expo, skipping this event may be more foolish than skipping fall aerification. Mark your calendar to travel to Lemont on September 22<sup>nd</sup> and take in a day of education, networking, and enjoyment. For more information on registration along with an agenda, go to the Illinois Turfgrass Foundation web site, iturfexpo.org. **-OC** 



THE BULL SHEET John Gurke, CGCS, Associate Editor

The iTurfExpo is right around the corner, and the new improved format is sure to offer great value to all who attend. This year's version will feature several highlights, including research updates from some of the top turf gurus in the industry, including Drs. Lee Miller (Missouri), Bruce Branham (Illinois), Aaron Patton (Purdue), Derek Settle (Duh), Jim Kerns (Wisconsin), and Ken Diesburg (SIU); along with some new twists. You won't see the traditional vendor booths this vear—just personal interaction between vendors and customers as you take in the day's events. Take the day away from work to reconnect with your vendors and /or customers in a relaxed atmosphere while observing the latest in turf research at Sunshine Course. See you there.

There's more unique education on tap in October, starting with the GCCMA/MAGCS education event at Stonebridge Country Club (Dan Sterr and Aaron Hearn) titled "Course Conditions and Golf Course Master Plans." On the agenda for the day are USGA agronomist Ty McClellan, Mike Vogt of the McMahon Group, and Frank Vain, also of the McMahon Group. Ty's talk is "Tips for Success—Surviving a Difficult Economy & Challenging Summers," and Mike Vogt will discuss "Job Mapping," while Frank will present his thoughts on "Planning for the Future," which will focus on the long-range planning process. You can reserve your place by emailing kindaschinto@msn.com, or register online at www.greaterchicagocmaa.org.

GCSAA has announced that multiple PGA Tour winner and renowned golf course designer-and a truly funny guy in

(continued on next page)

## September 2011

#### **DATES TO REMEMBER**

September 12 – CAGCS Annual Founders Cup event at Onwentsia Club in Lake Forest, IL, Scott Vincent host. September 14 – MAGCS Class C Golf Outing at

Seven Bridges Golf Club in Woodridge, IL, Don Ferreri and Dave Gelino hosts

September 14 – Midwest Regional Turf Foundation (MRTF) Golf Day at The Fort Golf Resort in Indianapolis, IN. Go to www.mrtf.org for information.

September 15-18 – BMW Championship (the third FedEx Cup Playoff event) at Cog Hill Country Club in Lemont, IL, Ken Lapp and Scott Pavalko hosts.

September 16 – Third Annual Lawn Care Education Day presented by the Illinois Landscape Contractors Association at the Chicago Botanic Garden in Glencoe, IL. Check out www.ilca.net for details.

September 19 – Annual Wee One Foundation Golf Outing at Pine Hills Country Club in Sheboygan, WI, Rod Johnson host.

September 22 – iTurfExpo 2011 at Midwest Golf House in Lemont, IL.

October 3 – MAGCS monthly meeting and Annual College Championship at the Merit Club in Libertyville, IL, John Nelson and Arne Nordenson hosts.

October 4-December 16 – Fall session of Rutgers Professional Golf Turf Management School at the New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station on the campus of Rutgers University in New Brunswick, NJ. Not sure why I keep posting this.

October 11 – MAGCS and GCCMA (Greater Chicago Club Managers Association) Education event at Stonebridge Country Club in Aurora, IL. Dan Sterr and Aaron Hearn hosts.

October 21 – Illinois Golf Hall of Fame Induction Ceremonies at The Glen Club in Glencoe, IL. MAGCS' own Paul Voykin will be the fifth-ever golf course superintendent to receive this honor at this event.

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my own humble opinion—Peter Jacobsen has been selected tor receive the 2012 Old Tom Morris Award, which will be presented during the 2012 GCSAA Education Conference at Celebrate GCSAA! presented by Syngenta on February 28<sup>th</sup> in Las Vegas. GCSAA's most prestigious honor, the Old Tom is presented each year to an individual who "through a continuing lifetime commitment to the game of golf has helped to mold the welfare of the game in a manner and style exemplified by Old Tom Morris."

MAGCS lost one of its longtime members on July 28<sup>th</sup> when Hans Hopphan passed away peacefully in his home in Aurora. Hans was my predecessor at Aurora Country Club, and also served as superintendent at The Bourne and at Blackberry Oaks Golf Course before hanging up his work boots—and he was the epitome of the working superintendent—to pursue his favorite pastimes of woodworking and gardening. Condolences to the family of Hans, including son-in-law **Steve Holich** and brother **Carl Hopphan**.



#### Hans Hopphan

When thinking about the many wonderful aspects of being a golf course superintendent, few compare to the feeling one gets when taking that early morning drive around the course with faithful dog in tow, checking out the beauty and splendor of a sunrise over a dewy expanse of green with a hint of autumn in the air. Then you get to the 13<sup>th</sup> green and reality hits you in the face like a bitch-slap.



Reality in this case meant a skid-steer, a chain, and a few gallons of diesel fuel and hydraulic oil to get this ship righted.



On a positive note, it DID happen in a bunker, which is nice. Congratulations to **Alan Hill**, former first assistant superintendent at Ruth Lake Country Club on being named the new superintendent of Klein Creek Golf Club in Winfield, IL. Alan spent 8 years as part of the Ruth Lake family under **Dan Marco, CGCS**, and is replaced by new first assistant Jeff Sievert. Best of luck in your exciting new position, Alan!



**Kyle Jacobsen** of Twin Orchard Country Club had some very special visitors recently when the guys from Orange County Choppers dropped in with one of their latest creations.



(continued on page 16)

I must admit I'm not into choppers much unless one breaks while chewing my dinner, and I haven't ever seen an episode of the show; but doesn't this just psych you up for Hawks hockey? Wait for the whistle—it's right around the corner... Big kudos to **Scott White** and Mauh-Nah-Tee-See Golf Club on achieving certification through the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Golf Courses this summer. Scott's next challenge? Write an essay where in 500 words or less he describes the origin of the name of his club.



Also congrats to **Chad Kempf**, formerly with EPIC Creative, who is now with Rain Bird Services Corporation. Chad will be handling sales and service for the Western Michigan territory.



Chad Kempf

The MAGCS Scholarship Committee would like to extend its heartiest congratulations to this year's scholarship recipients. Aaron Altman—University of Illinois (**Don Altman**, Forest Hills Country Club), Carrie Dinelli—University of Wisconsin (**Dan Dinelli**, North Shore Country Club, and Emily Kimbrough—Saint Mary of the Woods (**Brian Kimbrough**, River Forest Country Club) are the three recipients from a group of 15 applicants. Congratulations to these young men and women (and to their parents!).

With Congress contemplating federal tax relief for businesses devastated by this summer's natural disasters, the golf industry is launching a grass-roots campaign to ensure that it receives a share. We Are Golf, the game's lobbying initiative, is urging golf supporters and industry professionals to contact their congressional leaders to support legislation introduced by Rep. Spencer Bachus and Rep. Richard Shelby, both republicans from Alabama. Most importantly, We Are Golf is seeking golf's inclusion in the bill which calls for providing



temporary tax relief for businesses ravaged by various storms. The golf industry organized We Are Golf after a similar relief bill, passed in the aftermath of 2005's Hurricane Katrina, excluded golf—along with massage parlors, tanning salons, and liquor stores—from receiving aid. The latest bill mirrors existing legislation, which, without revision, would exclude golf again from federal aid. This summer has seen courses in the Southeast and Midwest get hit hard with natural disasters including flooding, drought, and tornadoes. Just thought you'd like to know.

Best wishes to **Nick Marfise**, former assistant superintendent at Park Ridge Country Club, who has accepted the position of assistant of the Dubsdread course at Cog Hill Country Club under new superintendent Scott Pavalko. Congrats Nick!



Nick Marfise

Brian Dennehy is an actor who has, among his many accomplishments on stage and screen, had numerous parts in the plays of Eugene O'Neill. Eugene O'Neill was a prolific

American playwrite who had a daughter named Oona O'Neill. Oona, at the very young age of 18, met and married a man named Charlie Chaplin, who was famous for his portrayal of "The Tramp" and the "Great Dictator." Stay with me here. Chaplin is also the name of a lake. In Georgia. Are you seeing where this is going yet? Georgia is where Augusta is. Which is where Club Cars are manufactured. Which is what MAGCS member **Dave Nadler** sells. Could they be one and the same? All logical evidence points to yes.

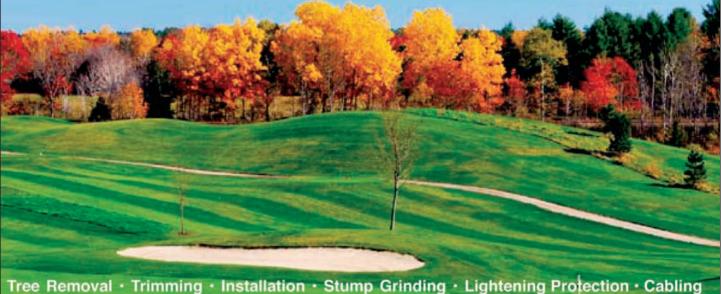


After a thorough search process, Kemper Lakes Golf Club in Kildeer, IL (**Dan Tully**) has selected golf course architect **Rick Jacobson** to renovate its prestigious layout, which was site of the 1989 PGA Championship. The Jacobson team will develop a Master Plan aimed at preserving the stature and overall aesthetic appeal of the 32-year old course, with long-term improvements to be made to many aspects of the course, including the highly-prioritized bunkers. Congratulations to Rick and the Jacobson team.

Champions of the environment now have their chance to shine. GCSAA is now accepting applications for the 2011 GCSAA/Golf Digest Environmental Leaders in Golf Awards. The ELGAs, presented in conjunction with Syngenta and Rain Bird, recognize golf course superintendents and golf courses (continued on page 19)







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August 22<sup>nd</sup> was a big day for MAGCS—its Annual Golf Championship was contested at the new gem of Elgin, Bowes Creek Country Club. Host superintendent Brad Legnaioli, **CGCS** provided a great golf course (and also had a hand in the glorious weather I'm sure) to test this year's contestants. The results of the tightly-fought battles were as follows: Your 2011 MAGCS Champion is **Dave Kohley**, who shot a scorching 73 to best **Bob Kronn Sr.** by one stroke. A Flight winner was **Bill Ahlstedt** with a net 63. B Flight went to Matt Harstad with a net 60. Class E Gross saw Al Pondel and **Mike Hatton** tie with 76's, while Class E Net saw Jason Funderburg win with a 59. Bob Kronn won Senior A Gross with his 74, and **Steve VanAcker** took the Net with a 66. Randy Wahler won the Super Senior A Flight and **Tom Byrne** took the honors in B Flight. Congratulations to all winners. And with a perfect day like that, on a beautiful and challenging new layout, everyone in attendance was a winner, right? We thank Brad and everyone at Bowes Creek, as well as the day's sponsors who made it all possible, who were: Arthur Clesen, Inc., Burris Equipment Company, JW Turf, Inc., Nels J. Johnson Tree Experts, Syngenta, Chicagoland Turf, BASF, John Deere Golf, Nadler Golf Car Sales, Pearl Valley Organix, and Water Well Solutions. Great day!





(continued on page 20)







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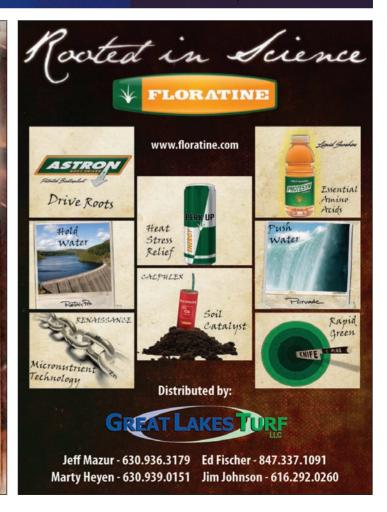
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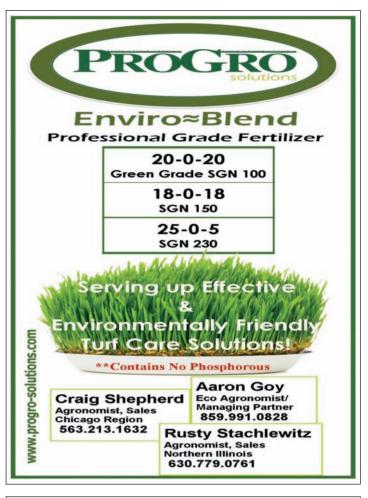
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MAGCS IN MOTION Scholarship Committee

# Scholarship Essays

Congratulations to our three winning students, Emily Kimbrough daughter of member Brian Kimbrough, Carrie Dinelli daughter of F. Dan Dinelli, CGCS and Aaron Altman, son of Don Altman. Each year the Midwest awards daughters and sons, granddaughters and grandsons of members that are in or heading off to college. The scholarships are funded by contributions from the John Buck Outing, raffles from our monthly meetings and our operating budget. Thank you for supporting these events and your membership within the Midwest. The following are the essays from our 2011 winners:



Emily Kimbrough with Mom and Dad at the Family Night Picnic is congratulated by the Midwest Family as one of our 2011 scholarship recipients.

#### **Emily Kimborough**

As I enter my freshman year of college at Saint Mary-ofthe-Woods College, in Terre Haute, Indiana, exciting transitions are approaching. The changes that I am most looking forward to are working with animals in a new environment, living on a beautiful campus and expanding my education in the field of veterinary medicine. I currently work with animals, so living in a rural area will be a new way of learning about their care and medicine.

Working at Portage Park Animal Hospital in Chicago has given me great experience in veterinary medicine. I work with small animals such as cats, dogs, and rabbits. Attending school in a rural area compared to the city, I will have the opportunity to work with large animals that live on the campus, like horses and alpacas. This additional experience of large breed wild animals will assist in my plans to be a veterinarian. Along with the stables at Saint Mary's, I am looking forward to living on the beautiful Indiana campus.

The Saint Mary-of-the-Woods campus has been a part of my life since before I could walk. I have always dreamed of attending school there, and now I will get to experience it firsthand. Another change I am looking forward to is my chance to learn intensely about my major in biology.

Attending college away from Chicago will allow me to be dedicated to expanding my intellectual capacities. Learning about the field of biology and veterinary medicine is a goal of mine and Saint Mary's can provide the education. I need to succeed in the field of work I have chosen.

Change is a major part of attending a college away from home, and I am looking forward to the challenges I face in the coming year. Attaining a wider work experience, living on a spacious campus and studying biology will be a wonderful experience.

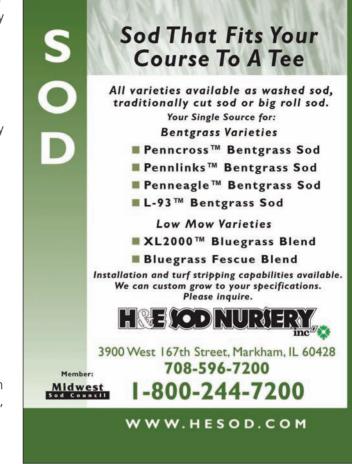
#### **Carrie Dinelli**

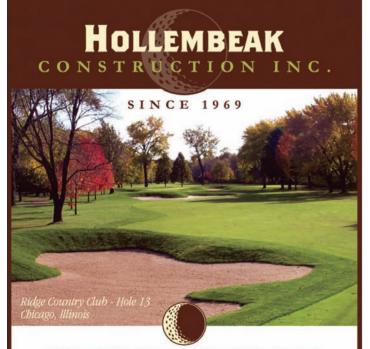
To go or not to go? This is the question my body asks my mind everyday. Half a decade ago, I stepped onto my first dive team, which generously escorted me to a division one diving squad. My biggest flaw in this sport is the mental capacity to allow my body to take over and do the dives I am capable of competing. Everyday I am faced with the exhausting obstacle of, "am I going to go for my dives?" What levelheaded person wants to jump five meters in the air, flip several times, throw in some twists, avoid smashing into the board, and enter rock-hard water without making a splash? The decisions I make everyday on whether or not to go for my dives and face my fears, are some of the hardest. They impact the rest of the day, week, month, and life. These decisions have, and will continue to enhance who I am. Having the mental control I am developing through diving will help me determine difficult decisions in the future. Standing at the end of the 16-foot board, the weight of my decision sits heavy on my shoulders. Option one: allow

the fear to spread through my body and step back down the ladder. Option two: push through the negativity with steady steps and fly through the air, like I can. To succeed I must chose option two – today and tomorrow.

#### **Aaron Altman**

Was sacrificing my luxurious and relaxing summer in order to support myself as well as take classes in a different city the right decision? These guestions streamed though my mind as I made the decision to remain at The University of Illinois, in Urbana - Champaign for the summer of 2011. If I did decide to travel down this path, I would be faced with many challenges. I would need to find and secure a job in order to support myself as well as pay my rent. In addition, I would be giving up my previously acquired summer job at home as well as free summer living and dining. Setting these challenges aside, I considered the many opportunities and growing experiences that could result as a product of my decision. I would be able to build a foundation for my dental school aspiration by shadowing and volunteering for local dentists. I would be able to take a difficult class over the summer rather than during the regular semester thus minimizing my focus on only one subject. Also, and most importantly, I would be given the opportunity to grow as an individual and gain a new sense of independence rather than simply relying on my parents. Not yet knowing the outcome, I still feel that I made the right decision. I am ready to face new challenges and experiences to better shape myself and further my future. **-OC** 





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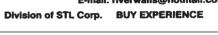
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