

# Local Heroes

Because of them, our industry is a better place.

Yamaha and *Golfdom* are partnering to pay tribute to superintendents around the nation who serve their profession as volunteer leaders of local chapter associations. Please join us in thanking these local heroes.



**YAMAHA**

**TOUGHER THAN GOLF.™**



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SOLUTIONS, IDEAS & OPINIONS

## Peter McDonough

The Keswick Club, Keswick, Va.  
Past President of the Virginia GCSA and Old Dominion GCSA

Peter McDonough has a phrase that motivates the way he lives his life, "Many hands doing a little so the whole body can accomplish a lot." That is the guiding principle that led him to spearhead coordination of Virginia's five superintendents associations' chapters into one group affiliated with the GCSAA.



McDonough was president of Old Dominion GCSA when the national organization ruled that superintendents' local chapters must be GCSAA affiliates. He immediately went on the road and sold the idea to the state's other four chapters, all of which were struggling. In the process, he was elected president of the Virginia GCSA in 1999, serving in that post for four years while the association doubled its membership to 600.

"The goal was not only GCSAA affiliation," McDonough says. "We don't have as many stringent regulations as Florida and other states, but it's a matter of time [before we do]. If we don't speak as a group or a team, we will not get our message heard."

## John Gurke

Certified Superintendent, Aurora CC, Wheaton, Ill.  
Contributing Editor to *On Course* magazine

When members of the Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents (MAGCS) need to relieve some stress, they can sit down with their latest issue of *On Course* magazine and read "Zen and the Art of Equipment Maintenance" about a year in the Twilight Zone without a mechanic, or "If You Are a Golf Course Dog, Read This."



It is the latest knee-slapping column from long-time editor and now contributing editor John Gurke.

"I try to make it as funny as I can," Gurke says. "I get a rush out of sitting down and being creative with the keyboard!"

Gurke, who ran through the seats of the Chicagoland GCSA, serving as its president in 1997-98, also served awhile on the Midwest AGCS board, but left it after finding that his talents are best suited to editorial work.

About his devotion to volunteer work for the industry, the 1984 graduate of the University of Illinois says: "The stock answer is that I wanted to make a difference. Truthfully, I wanted to see what a little guy like me could do with a bigger group of people. As far as the editing and writing, that evolved."

## DO YOU KNOW A LOCAL HERO IN YOUR CHAPTER?

Send us a note at [pjones@advanstar.com](mailto:pjones@advanstar.com) and we may feature your hero in an upcoming tribute.

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