

Off The Fringe

At GCSAA, Phipps most looks forward to connecting with people.

Phipps Joins GCSAA Staff

BY BETH GERACI

David Phipps rises every day at 4:15 a.m., as he has for years. It's hardly an unusual ritual for a golf course superintendent. The thing is, Phipps isn't a superintendent anymore.

After 20 years in golf course management, and an impressive 12-year run as Stone Creek Golf Club superintendent, Phipps has joined the GCSAA as its Northwest Region field representative.

"As I weighed my career options, I thought it would be a logical next step for me professionally," Phipps said. "It just seems to fit with what

I'm so passionate about."

In his new position, Phipps takes one of his most notable passions — the environment — to the doorstep of chapters throughout the region. Phipps won the GCSAA's 2011 President's Award for Environmental Stewardship and is a five-time winner of the GCSAA/*Golf Digest* Environmental Leaders in Golf Award.

Now, he advises superintendents throughout the Northwest on environmental initiatives. He's also responsible for promoting the association, reaching out to members and empowering chapters to connect with their communities.

Phipps was impressed by the GCSAA on a 2004 business trip and



in 2008 began contemplating a career with the association. "Being in Lawrence, you buy in really quick," he said. "Because you realize how strong the association is, in terms of friendliness and organization. I think our leadership at GCSAA is phenomenal right now."

But for Phipps, saying goodbye to Stone Creek wasn't easy. "Stone Creek is my baby," he said. "I built that thing."

He'll be back, often — as a guest.



A DEER IN THE HEADLIGHTS

Joe Stribley, superintendent at Yellowstone CC in Billings, Mont., recently spotted an unusual sight. "It was dark, I thought, 'what the heck is that?'" he says. "I shined my headlights on her... it's the first time I've ever seen an albino deer."

Syngenta's Bell Retires

It was a stellar run, but after 35 years at the company, Syngenta marketing communications manager Margaret Bell retired May 4.

Bell launched her Syngenta career in the Chemicals Group, switching to Ag in 1980. She'd worked in marketing communications in Syngenta's Lawn & Garden Group since 2001.

Bell "has been a trailblazer in our industry in many ways, and her business savvy, contacts and knowledge of the golf, lawn care and landscape markets will be difficult to replicate at Syngenta," said Syngenta Turf and Landscape Territory Manager Lee Bloomcamp.

"You always enjoyed working on a project with Margaret," added Walt Osborne, Syngenta's key account manager for national golf accounts. "She has a great sense of humor, and you knew you could count on her to get the job done — and done right."

Bell was active in many Green Industry associations, especially the Turf and Ornamental Communicators Association (TOCA), of which she served as vice president for nearly 12 years.

She will savor most the camaraderie she felt in the golf industry. "A lot of times I've been the only minority and only woman in the group, and I didn't even notice it," Bell said. "That's pretty good, to know you're around people who are all good folks. I will miss that more than anything."

