



## Wee One Foundation

In 1985, four friends traveled to Scotland on a golf trip. The caddies were making wagers as these golfers stood on the tee. One caddie declared, “My money’s on the wee one!” The “wee one”, Wayne Otto, CGCS, our dear friend and colleague, passed away October 21, 2004 losing his battle to cancer. Wayne dedicated his life to the betterment of the golf maintenance profession he loved and the individuals who shared his passion.

### Our Mission

The Wee One Foundation was developed as a tribute to Wayne to assist golf course management professionals (or their dependents) who incur overwhelming expenses due to medical hardship without comprehensive insurance or adequate financial resources. Through the Foundation’s work, Wayne’s legacy will never be forgotten.

### More In Need

Since its inception in 2004, membership within the Wee One Foundation has grown to over 270 in 17 states. More importantly, the Wee One Foundation has gifted over \$500,000 to families in Arizona, Missouri, Iowa, Illinois, Michigan, North Carolina, Idaho, Minnesota, California, and Texas. As the Wee One grows more people are helped and more funds are needed to distribute.

(continued on page 33)



2012 Board of Directors: *Back row left to right:* E. Paul Eckholm CGCS, Paul Diegnau CGCS, Kerry Glader.  
*Second row left to right:* Bill Gullicks, Dave Kazmiercsak CGCS, Joe Churchill, Matt McKinnen, Jeff Ische, Jake Schmidt.  
*Front row left to right:* Scottie Hines CGCS, Roger Stewart CGCS, Eric Couselman, Brian Brown, Bob Porter.

(continued from page 9)

## The Minnesota Connection

Mike Smith graduated from George-Little Rock high school in 1996 and continued his education at Southeast Technical College in Sioux Falls and graduated from their Turf Management program. While he was in school and for 4 years after that he worked as the 2nd assistant at Minnehaha Country Club in Sioux Falls.

In 2001 he took a job as 1st assistant at Bluff Creek Golf Course in Chanhassen. When the Halla Greens golf course was being built in 2005, he was hired as the Supt. and helped develop the course to what it is today. Mike was diagnosed with a brain tumor Dec. 18th and had surgery on Jan. 4th at Abbott Northwestern Hospital. After being dismissed on Jan. 20th, he has been taking treatments in Sioux Falls.

The Wee One Foundation, combined with proceeds from the Wee One golf outing held at North Oaks Golf Club in 2012, recently sent a check for \$15,000 to Mike in an effort to help with his compounding medical expenses.

(continued on page 35)

(continued from page 33)

Mike's mother Elvi Smith wrote on March 12<sup>th</sup>, "...sorry it has taken so long....Mike forgot to tell me at first and then he spent a week in the hospital with blood clots in his legs and both sides of his lungs. He has to have a shot everyday of blood thinner...BUT he is doing much better now...but it did set him back a little. He has had 4 weeks of radiation and will be done on March 26. Also is taking a chemo pill everyday and after the 26th he will be taking the pill 5 days a month. He is still having physical and occupational therapy 3 times a week. So he is a busy guy!!!!!! He has maintained a very good attitude so far...the most frustrating thing for him is his hearing. He can hear some things like the telephone ringing, the microwave but has trouble hearing people talking...he is pretty good at reading lips!!! Mike would like to thank the Minnesota Golf Course



A recent picture of Mike

Superintendents Association and the Wee One Foundation for their generous gift.”

On Monday October 1<sup>st</sup> the third annual Wee One Golf Outing will be held at North Oaks Golf Club, hosted by Brian Boll. Please make time to join the field for a day of golf. If you cannot attend please consider a contribution to The Wee One Foundation, a Foundation that is so supportive to our profession.

Or consider membership.

Members are members because they understand the Wee One Foundation is an extension of the goodness of the people in this industry. It simply fits into who we are and what we do. This foundation is so aptly named. In the tradition of Wayne Otto, CGCS all of the members are here to help those in need. Recognition is not important, what matters most is that those who need help receive it.

Visit [weeone.org](http://weeone.org) for more information.



Looking forward to happier days again, Mike!