



Tim Anderson is just the 14th U.S. superintendent to achieve Master Greenkeeper status. Photo courtesy of Naperville CC

Chicago superintendent walks the walk in pursuing professional development

The latest American superintendent to attain Master Greenkeeper status from the British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association recently reflected on the foreign version of GCSAA's Certified Golf Course Superintendent designation.

Tim Anderson, superintendent at Naperville Country Club on Chicago's west side, became the 49th Master Greenkeeper registered by BIGGA this past spring, nearly five years after he earned CGCS status. The 23-year member of GCSAA is just the 14th Master Greenkeeper superintendent in the U.S.

"It shows commitment to the industry, continuing education, keeping current, professional development ... all of those things," Anderson says. "You're investing in yourself, really."

Anderson says the Master Greenkeeper process is a lot like GCSAA's certification program, with similar peer reviews, membership and education requirements and exam preparation materials. BIGGA even accepts the transfer of many GCSAA education units.

One BIGGA requirement, a course attestation by a Master Greenkeeper, turned out to be a no-brainer for Anderson. Bob Maibusch, CGCS at nearby Hinsdale Golf Club, is a good friend and a Master Greenkeeper himself, so he was able to perform that duty.

Anderson says the major difference between the two certifications is the exam. When he took the GCSAA certification test it was mostly multiple choice and, at that time, open book. The BIGGA exam, on the other hand, entails two days of essay questions. BIGGA allowed Anderson to take his test in America at the Chicago Golf Association's Golf House, with Luke Cella, executive director of the Midwest Association of GCS, serving as moderator.

A Kansas City native, Anderson has been the superintendent at Naperville CC since 2005, returning to the club where he was an assistant in the mid-1990s after a nine-year stint at Prestwick Country Club in Frankfort, Ill.

Noting that the superintendent profession today is highly competitive, he sees great value in achieving the dual titles of CGCS and MG.

"Anything that you do to enhance your professional development helps you down the road," he says. "Whatever profession you're in, people who have long tenures and successful careers are those who focus on continued professional development and education."



Passing noted

Richard Chapin, director emeritus of the Michigan State University Libraries and the first project director of the Turfgrass Information Center, died July 30. He was 84.

Chapin, MSU library director for more than 40 years, was the primary facilitator of the university's turfgrass-related efforts beginning in the early 1960s. In 1984, the Turfgrass Information Center was created from the O.J. Noer Memorial Turfgrass Collection to build on MSU's turfgrass library and to index, abstract and provide access online via the Turfgrass Information File — better known as TGIF.

A member of the Michigan State School of Journalism faculty, Chapin also directed the MSU Press and was president of the university's Library Association. He received the Distinguished Faculty Award in 1988 and two years later was given the O.J. Noer Research Foundation's Distinguished Service Award.

Survivors include his wife, Eleanor; two sons, Bob and Dave; a daughter, Becky; six grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Contributions can be made to the Eleanor and Richard Chapin Endowment for Staff Development at Michigan State University Libraries through the MSU Development Office, 300 Spartan Way, East Lansing, MI., 48824-9911.