



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The Gift of Giving

By Paul Diegnau, CGCS

As you may have read in the last issue of *Hole Notes*, former Golf Course Superintendent Tom Fuller, was forced to leave his sales position with Turfwerks, due to illness. He was diagnosed with Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis, an incurable lung disease that will require a lung transplant. He has been added to the lung transplant list and he requires an oxygen delivery system to accompany him wherever he goes. Beyond sending silent prayers, it also appears that a benefit golf tournament is appropriate with the proceeds going to Tom and his family.

Enter the Wee One Foundation (www.weeone.org). This Wisconsin-based organization was founded in 2004 in memory of Wayne Otto, CGCS, and long-time Superintendent at Ozaukee CC in Mequon, Wisconsin. In the short time since its inception, this Foundation has gifted over \$300,000 to those experiencing economic hardships due to overwhelming medical expenses. To be eligible, the recipient must be a GCS, an Assistant GCS, an individual that services the golf course management industry or a dependent thereof.

Dale Parske of Reinders contacted Rod Johnson, CGCS, and Vice-President of the Wee One Foundation, for possible assistance with a golf tournament. Not only was the Wee One willing to help, but they stepped up to the plate in a big way. They have offered to take care of online registration, cover all of MGCSA's expenses to host the tournament, match dollar for dollar any money we raise up to a very generous limit, and donate very nice prizes for the event. The MGCSA would have been foolish to turn down this kind offer and unanimously voted to approve the event.

At this time we think we have a very nice venue lined up this fall for the event. The last and most important thing we need is participants. I hope that many of my fellow MGCSA members will find value in participating in this tournament to help one of our own.

Tournament information will be made available on our website (www.mgcsa.org) and in *Hole Notes* as details become available. Let's make this event a HUGE success!

The Backbone of our Industry

I had the pleasure of playing golf with host Superintendent Jeff Minske at the Assistants Mixer at Eastwood GC on May 26. As we conversed during the round, I learned the "ins and outs" of his operation. I was somewhat taken aback by the fact that he maintains 18 holes of regulation golf with a staff of five and one-half, including himself. In addition, he oversees the maintenance operations at Soldiers Field GC, another 18-hole facility in the Rochester parks system. WOW! These revelations caused me to pause and reflect on the many small-budget courses that provide very playable, enjoyable conditions with minimal resources. The dedication, strong work ethic and ingenuity of these maintenance staffs are what make our industry so strong. Then Jeff said something that tied it all together for me - after 21 years at the same facility he still looks forward to getting up and going to work every day. Hats off to the backbone of our industry! Thanks Jeff!

Until next month,
Paul Diegnau, CGCS

HOLE NOTES

Official publication
of the MGCSA

Editor

Jack MacKenzie, CGCS
jmackenzie426@msn.com

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MGCSA OFFICE AND HOLE NOTES OFFICE

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Scott Turtinen

P. O. Box 617
Wayzata, MN 55391
952-473-2582 Fax: 952-473-2586
Toll Free: 1-800-642-7227
scott@mgcsa.org

HOLE NOTES (ISSN 108-27994) is published monthly except bi-monthly November/December, January / February for \$2 an issue or \$20 per year by the MGCSA, 217 Minnetonka Av. S., Ste. D, Wayzata, MN 55391. Scott Turtinen, publisher. Periodicals postage paid at Wayzata, MN. **POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to **HOLE NOTES**, P. O. BOX 617, WAYZATA, MN 55391.