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Mike Bavier — President

The President's Message

Communication is one of the key tools to being a successful superintendent. We have discussed communication many times over the last couple of years, but I have a few thoughts that might be stimulating for you.

From the moment we walk into our offices in the morning until that last call in the evening from the green chairman, we must be able to communicate effectively. To start our day, we will probably discuss with our crew members projects to be done, after which many of us will go into further detail with our key employees. Not so long ago, we all had to physically participate in most every project, which isn't the case today. We have key employees that are made responsible to help and guide our personnel. They, to my thinking, are a plus for not only us but to the club in so much as they are capable of taking over for a short time in an emergency.

Our day of communication has just begun. Rather than jumping on that tractor and cutting a few fairways, we instead might go to the pro shop and compare notes with the golf professional. The calendars that are made up for golf events are many times obsolete before they arrive in our hands. The pro has a department to run just like us and needs our cooperation as well as we need his. A foot in the right direction with him can be a big help in his conversations with the golfers. From the pro shop we might go to the manager's office to check dates and club happenings with him. The clubhouse, pro shop, and grounds department will run separately, but you can be assured that they will run better with close communication and understanding.

Our next stop is more than likely with some of our crew members on the course. Then on to that appointment with a salesman, a man who must anticipate our every move and stock accordingly. Our communication with the salesman will give him an idea of our planned purchases—immediate needs as well as future plans. They, too, must make a living. He has shown a sincere desire to learn by attending our education meetings in order to communicate better with us.

We must remember that luncheon date with our chairman and be prepared with an outline to expedite our communication with him. And what about all those members that have questions as they pass by at lunch? Answers should be short and brief, and by all

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The following is a list of office telephone numbers for the entire Board.

Dorothy Carey	349-7766
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means we need to listen to their suggestions. (I wish sometimes some of our distributors and manufacturing friends would do the same!) Many times we won't be able to do what the members ask but they are still the ones paying the bills. Occasionally, if not regularly, a news letter article for the club paper will answer many questions that might be asked. Even a game of golf with the members is a fine way to communicate. Our communication with the green committee will also help explain different projects and situations that they, in turn, can relay to other members during golf, cards, and just plain social events.

We just about forgot to return that call to a fellow superintendent—our continual communication with other superintendents daily or weekly will be of immense value in checking prices of chemicals, fertilizers, or fuel and for just plain shop talk. I would be pressed to recall all the help I have received from other superintendents, and I have even helped one or two myself.

After discussing with our key employees the day's events and plans for tomorrow, our day comes to an end. Whether a typical day for you or not, we all need to stay abreast during these changing times by using the art of communication to the fullest. We are part of a fast moving society that has little feeling for those that stand around and wait for accomplishments. To be other than aggressive in our positions may spell certain extinction for us. Let's continue to communicate—listen to others, understand and help those around us which, in turn, benefits all.

Chicago District Golf Association Green Committee Seminar

Over 200 Superintendents, green chairmen, club members and guests attended this year's annual Chicago District Golf Association Green Committee Seminar. The seminar was conducted at Butterfield Country Club on March 26.

Donald Johnson, from Medinah Country Club, acted as chairman of the seminar. Johnson and his committee chose very good topics to be discussed. Opening the seminar was *John Jackman*, Superintendent from Medinah. Jackman explained some of his preparations for the U.S. Golf Open at Medinah beginning June 19. Knowing John's capabilities, Medinah will have few worries. Good Luck to John and his staff.

Purdue University's *Dr. William Daniels* answered questions on many topics that were brought up. He had the group really going and thinking turf problems.

Carl Hopphan, Superintendent at Aurora Country Club, had an interesting topic on Fairway maintenance. Hopphan's Bluegrass Fairways are some of the finest manicured grass in the Chicago area (or the United States).

Juett Hogancamp, from the Illinois Department of Agriculture, discussed Environmental Protection Agency laws and Applicator license.

Appreciation must be shown to the CDGA office, for *Mr. Dennis Davenport* and *Miss Carol McCue*, and the staff for co-ordinating a lot of efforts to make the program a great success. The only thing I can say is that those Superintendents that missed this seminar, missed a good educational program.



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East Branch of the DuPage River causes flooding problems for Supt. Tony Meyers every year. The River is not dredged deep enough causing the golf course not to drain properly during heavy rains.

In the winter when it rains, it is usually followed by freezing weather causing Woodridge Golf Course to have a 15 acre skating rink. The 3" rainfall we had during the first part of January caused flooding water to engulf Tony's #15 green. Six fairways of the Meadow Lane course at Woodridge were under water late to be ice. Due to heavy development around Woodridge Golf Course, this problem is going to grow worse than better.

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