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President's Message

by Bruce R. Williams, CGCS
President, MAGCS

Chicago — Golf Mecca of the World

Nowhere in the world will you find such a concentration of outstanding golf courses as we have right here in the Chicago metropolitan area. Within a 35 mile radius of the city there are over 200 wonderful golf courses. There is a fine mix of public and private golf facilities offering pleasurable playing conditions for Chicagoans and suburbanites. The playing quality and condition of these golf courses is a tribute to the many members of the Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents who are charged with responsibility of providing excellent playing conditions.

During the month of June the eyes of the golfing world will be on Chicago as we will host the Western Open and the U.S. Open. It will be a busy month and we wish the best to host superintendents Mike Sauls and Dan Quast. While these two men will have their clubs viewed by millions they will set standards for many of us to follow for our own customers and members. It seems that all golfers want U.S. Open caliber playing conditions. We must communicate that the conditions at Medinah did not come about overnight and are the results of many years of hard work and sizeable expense. The golf market in Chicago is highly competitive. This is what keeps the standards for maintenance so high.

Let's all set our goals and standards high and try to give our golfers the best we can every day. We deserve the reputation of having the finest groomed golf courses in the world. There are not many places that I have traveled that are blessed with an emerald necklace of golf courses surrounding an exciting city like Chicago.

I hope all of our members take the opportunity to visit Butler National during the Western Open. The MAGCS will have a hospitality tent in cooperation with the Tee-2-Green Corporation. Our thanks to Tony Meyer, Dr. Bill Meyer, and Bill Rose for making that possible every year. Please stop by and see the tent. There will be plenty of cold beverages.

While the Western Open has found a home at Butler in recent years, the U.S. Open has evaded Chicago for quite a while. I am sure the famous Medinah #3 will give the best golfers in the world a true challenge. The opportunity to see a U.S. Open in our own backyard does not happen very often. I encourage each and every member of the MAGCS to spend a day at the tournament. Also join your fellow members at a reception held by GCSAA. This should be a highlight of the tournament.

See you at the Open.