

Director's Column



Don Cross, CGCS

“A Cut Above the Rest”

by Donald A. Cross, CGCS

By the time you receive this issue of **The Bull Sheet** August will be gone and the potentially restless nights and stressful days associated with it, will have passed. The seemingly endless rush of club championships, invitationals and other events will only be memories. It's time to take a well deserved sigh of relief and smile of satisfaction. Satisfaction in knowing you and your staff have done your best to provide your members, guests, and clientele with some of the best conditioned golf courses in the country.

I'm sure you've all received many compliments this Summer, heard all the favorable comments about other courses, and have had the opportunity to play some real beauties. What a terrific year to be in this profession.

Indeed we have been blessed this year, at least through the beginning of August, with relatively mild temperatures, low disease pressure, and regular rainfall. These factors and others have made quality conditioning easier to attain this year. I strongly believe, however, that if these factors were less than favorable, we would all rise to the challenge and in spite of adversity, continue to provide superb course conditions.

Our dedication, commitment to excellence, perseverance, as well as our willingness to continually seek education, would see us through the tough times. Ah EDUCATION, (I had to put in a pitch sooner or later), one of the keys to our successes. The compliments we've all heard about our great greens, beautiful fairways, gorgeous flowers and splendid grounds, would certainly be much more difficult to receive without our continued education endeavors.

We're in exciting times of technological advancement and yet trying times as targets of environmental concern groups. From new, more efficient equipment, superior plant protectants and growth regulating products, computers and more; to concerns about ground water, underground storage tanks, and right-to-know. All issues at hand requiring considerable effort, on our part, to keep informed.

How do we keep up? We all know the answer. Read as much as we can from the publications, bulletins, and newsletters we receive. Attend field days, demonstrations, conferences and seminars. Last but not least, we by all means stay 'a cut above the rest' by attending MAGCS monthly meetings, the Midwest Clinic, the MAGCS session at the NCTE, and the GCSAA/MAGCS continuing education seminars.

Two Benefits in One

by Kerry Anderson, Vice President
Illinois Turfgrass Foundation

You deserve a break! After a busy season who not take a short vacation? The perfect opportunity is offered by the North Central Turfgrass Exposition, being held this year in Springfield, Illinois.

This April I revisited Springfield to preview the exhibit hall. This visit served to remind me that Springfield is a very interesting town. The conference site is exceptional. The Ramada Renaissance is truly a 5-star hotel with outstanding service located in downtown Springfield, not only in the heart of the business district but at the center of the historic district as well. Many fine restaurants (and drinking establishments!) are located within walking distance of the hotel and convention center complex.

The historical attractions in Springfield are numerous. They encompass historic homes including one by Frank Lloyd Wright, as well as Lincoln's home and tomb and the executive mansion. Visit the State Capitol, the Illinois State Museum, and the Henson Robinson Zoo. You'll relive history as you find yourself in the summer of 1851 walking the halls of the Old State Capitol Building. Authentically costumed guides portray characters of the 1850s as they blend a traditional guided tour with first-person interpretations of Mr. Lincoln's World.

Springfield celebrates all month long when the arrival of the holiday season rekindles the old fashioned Christmas spirit. This celebration takes form in Children's Christmas at the Old State Capitol, Christmas Floral Display at the Washington Park Botanical Gardens and Carols at the Carillon.

Springfield is easy to get to. The Amtrak station is only a few blocks from the Ramada Renaissance Hotel. Trains depart from Chicago several times a day and round trip fare currently is \$45.00. The driving is easy as well, via a major expressway (I-55) direct from Chicago to Springfield. From the north side of Chicago, and through Bloomington/Normal, the trip to Springfield is about a 3½ hour drive.

So why not take a late-Fall vacation? Visit the North Central Turfgrass Exposition and Springfield, too! For more information about the NCTE call 312/644-0828.

“Seasonal Changes”

Fall is in, Summer is out,

That's what September is all about.

While We enjoyed Summer's treat,

Enough for pressures and excessive heat.

So Welcome to Fall's timely intrusion,

Goodbye Dog Day's, and false illusions.

Seasonal changes bring new directives,

To the Golf Course Super Detectives.

Kenneth R. Zanzig