

Director's Column



by Ray Schmitz

Wow — what a challenge this season has been. It started with damaging floods in December, March, and May. The last flood occurring May 25th. Since then there has been on significant rainfall in the past 10 weeks. To complicate the situation I have experienced a deep well breakdown and a rash of irrigation pipe and sprinkler head problems as the irrigation system is used to maximum capacity night after night.

As usual, golfers demands and expectations remain high and we as superintendents are required to do that little extra. If it is any consolation, I once worked for man who always enjoyed a challenge such as this. He felt when situations for growing grass were ideal then anyone could have a good golf course. With his ability and determination he could present a quality golf course even at times when mother nature did not cooperate.

A few bright spots have occurred this season — a new post emergence herbicide that does an excellent job of removing crabgrass in a new seeding has been offered by BASF Chemical Co. with an EUP label. Also, a tip from Les Rutan at Beverly Country Club explaining how to make soaker hose out of old 1" irrigation hose has really helped to supply water to hard to irrigate areas and eliminate a lot of hand watering.

Meanwhile, I have not entirely lost sight of my responsibility to the MAGCS as vice president. One of my duties is to set up an operating budget and keep a watchful eye on the finances of the association. Financially we are strong and now in a position to establish a video library for use by the membership to aid in training their employees in various aspects of the golf course operation. This training and documentation is now required by law as part of the employees right to know act of 1989.

Lately, I noticed when I play golf during the drought conditions that my drives are going a lot farther. I like to think that I am getting stronger and becoming a better player and not taking advantage of the hard ground caused by the dry weather. The true test will be in the MAGCS golf championship in September held at Ridgemoor Country Club. Hope to see you there.

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A Note From the President

Almost two years ago the Commercial Members Advisory Committee was formed. As the president of the Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents I appointed Phil Taylor to chair this new group. This committee was formed to give a collective voice to the commercial sector of the MAGCS membership. The committee is still in its infancy but it has a defined set of goals and objectives and the group is an important part of the entire association. Without the support of our commercial sector, our association would not be able to operate the various programs we offer at such reasonable prices. I would appreciate it if each of you would take the time to respond to the survey that has been developed by the committee. It will help them in the upcoming year.

**Bruce R. Williams, CGCS
MAGCS President**

Commercial Members Advisory Committee M.A.G.C.S. Membership Survey

The following survey questions represent the attempts of the C.M.A.C. to better understand the perspective, position, and opinion of M.A.G.C.S. superintendent membership as it relates to Class E (Industry Reps) members. Your cooperation in completing and returning the survey card will help your C.M.A.C. to better serve your needs.

As a Committee we thank you in advance.

1. Are Industry Reps doing enough to make you aware of industry advances? (circle one)
Yes
No
2. The average Industry Reps works how many hours per week? (circle one)
a. 20 to 30 hrs/wk
b. 30 to 40 hrs/wk
c. 40 to 50 hrs/wk
d. 50 to 60 hrs/wk
3. The average Industry Rep has an annual income of: (circle one)
a. \$25,000 to \$50,000
b. \$50,000 to \$75,000
c. \$75,000 to \$100,000
d. over \$100,000
4. Do you think an Industry Rep should sit on the MAGCS Executive Board as a non-voting member? (circle one)
Yes
No
5. Rank the following occupations in order of credibility and integrity: (1 highest, 6 lowest)
a. Club manager
b. Golf pro
c. Superintendent
d. Club member
e. University professor
f. Industry Rep

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6. The average Industry Rep has reached which education level: (circle one)
 - a. High School only
 - b. 2 year college degree
 - c. 4 year college degree
 - d. Masters degree in related field
7. Are majority of your buying decisions influenced by the level of Industry Rep support to the MAGCS? (circle one)
 - a. always
 - b. sometimes
 - c. occasionally
 - d. never
8. Rank the following sources of useful information: (1 most useful, 5 least useful)
 - Trade journals
 - Conventions
 - Industry Reps
 - Extension and education personnel
 - Fellow superintendents
9. Are you satisfied with the following aspects of the National Convention Hospitality Room? (circle one after each letter)
 - a. hours Yes No
 - b. size of room Yes No
 - c. food Yes No
 - d. accessibility Yes No
10. Which one of the following would you prefer as it pertains to National Convention Hospitality Rooms? (circle one)
 - a. 3 nights status quo
 - b. 1 night extra special, (memorable)

No "Ray Gerber Editorial Award" in 1991!

It seems that everyone expects everyone else to write articles, and no one takes it upon themselves to contribute one. We have had only 5 superintendents write an article in the past twelve months.

Article 5 of the guidelines for the award state: "There must be at least six articles in a qualifying year (September thru August) to be considered. If less than six articles in any one year, those qualifying will be carried over to the next year(s), till there are six articles to be judged."

Those qualifying to enter for the award this past year and are being carried over to 1992 are:

September 1990 — "Noise/Nuisance Ordinance" by Brian Green, Sunset Valley Golf Club

November 1990 — "State of the Art in France" by Steve Cook, Golf de Joyenval

December 1990 — "A New Green Construction Technique" by Nick Hongisto, Schaumburg Golf Club

March 1991 — "Birth of a Video" by Jerry Mack, Lake Bluff Golf Club

July 1991 — "Inform Your Golfers" by John Gurke, Aurora Country Club.