

Director's Column

by Donald A. Cross, CGCS Skokie Country Club

While staring at my blank PC screen hoping for insightful words to magically appear I asked myself; "What content criteria should be observed in a Director's Column?" Well, I came up with a few. In my opinion a Director's Column should be educational, encouraging, entertaining, and in this day of environmental correctness, ecological. Now these may not be exactly the same as other Directors would suggest, and they are certainly not all-inclusive but nevertheless, they work for me. (At least for this writing as they fit the four items I want to address.)



I'll start with the last first. If you did not see the Chicago Tribune article "Ecology Getting to Be a Habitat With Golfers" (June 23, front page), I would urge you to find it and read it. It was splendid to see this very positive public relations piece about the commitment that over 800 courses have made toward improved environmental stewardship through the Audubon Program. Get involved if you currently are not. It is the "correct" thing to do, it's great fun, it adds variety to our daily work, it puts you more "in tune" with nature and it's an excellent tension release.

On the same subject, I thought it was interesting and enjoyable to discuss and compare with other superintendents, at one of our earlier MAGCS meetings, the number of bluebird, flicker, and wood duck nest-boxes and purple martin, and bat houses we all had. We spoke of the various bird species we had seen at our respective courses with great pride. (When a bluebird pair nested here in June, I felt honored to be chosen)! Our discussion sure was a refreshing change from those of green speed, mowing heights, and cultivation programs. I'm sure these environmental and ecological topic discussions will continue to expand. One last note on this issue, our MAGCS commercial members would surely enjoy seeing some of the flora and fauna on your course. Give them a tour.

(When a bluebird pair nested here in June, I felt honored to be chosen)!

In terms of education I want to briefly mention a Storm Warning system we recently installed. The system consists of lightning detection equipment and wireless radio controlled sirens at four locations throughout the course. With the all-too frequent storms we have had this year, it has been a valuable asset. Installation is quick if a power supply is accessible (such as an irrigation controller) and operation is simple. I would be happy to give you full details if you are interested. Give me a call.

I want to encourage you to attend the MAGCS Family Picnic on August 21. The Long Range Planning Committee asked the Arrangements Committee to develop this and Kevin Czerkies and his committee have a great day in store. We are all away from our families for long periods during the summer so why not treat them (and yourself) to some fun. This is also a great way for wives and girlfriends to make acquaintances so as to feel more comfortable at future functions such as the Fall Din-

ner Dance and the Hospitality Room at the GCSAA Conference. So come on out and help make this a day to remember.

I've taken up too much space already but I still have the entertaining part to complete. Now this is not intended to make fun of any person, and we all have made and will make, how should I politely say, thoughtless mistakes, but I found this story quite humorous. It seems as though a bee's nest in a rather large oak

In making decisions, you win some, you lose some, and some get burned-out! Here's to no burn-out in August!

tree was in need of control. Well, this fellow poured kerosene in the cavity where the nest was and lit it on fire. The fire burned and promptly controlled the bees as well as eliminated any future bee nest problem. How can that be? Well, it turns out the fire smoldered and burned all night long and the next day the tree was burned in half. It is now merely wood chips!

In making decisions, you win some, you lose some, and some get burned-out! Here's to no burn-out in August!

Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents Monthly Meeting Monday, August 16th, 1993

Turnberry Country Club Host: Jim Evans

Event: 4-man team total, prizes for net and gross

Pre-registration and pre-payment required

The field is limited to the first 120 paid registrants

MEMBERS ONLY — NO GUESTS

Cost for the day - \$55.00; dinner only - \$25.00; dinner only at door - \$30.00.

10:00 Check-in

10:30 Lunch Buffet Cookout

11:30 Shotgun

5:00 Cocktails (Cash Bar)

6:00 Dinner & Meeting

Coat & Tie required

AUGUST 16, 1993 TURNBERRY C.C.

Name _____

Club/Company _____

Telephone _____

Handicap _____

Full Days Events Dinner Only

I will play with anyone assigned

I wish to be paired with the following golfer(s)

(1) _____

(2) _____

(3) _____

Make checks payable to MAGCS, P. O. Box 248, Eola, IL 60519. Payment due no later than August 12, 1993.