

quested this type of help in the past as most chapters cannot afford their own staffing. I would like to see a regional staff setup in one part of the country before we cover the whole country. Contrary to the previous month's author these individuals that would serve as field staff would not "come to tell him how to run his golf course". The author commented that "he could call on Randy Kane, Tom Fermaninan, Dave Wehner, Hank Wilkinson, and many more at no cost and know that they are doing research locally." Unless I am mistaken, these gentlemen do **not** work for free and are supported by all of the taxpayers and in some cases subsidized by research grants made by groups like CDGA, GCSAA, USGA, MAGCS, etc. They all do a great job but how can one assume that they perform their jobs at no cost.

The author of the aforementioned article also stated that "I am sure the GCSAA Standards Committee was very heavily influenced by the staff of GCSAA in presenting the By-Law changes to give more control to the Board and Staff." How can you make such a statement without talking to those on the Standards Committee? It is a shame to see such attacks published with reckless abandon by those who don't research their facts.

The previously published comments about the voting procedures were unfounded as well. It was correct that there were approximately 5000 to 6000 votes cast at the New Orleans annual meeting. With the concept of one person one vote, we don't know how many votes **would** be cast but we do know that there is a potential that 8300 votes **could** be cast. I think that the author has little faith in his peers to cast their votes. The proposed system would involve more people in the decision making process. Realistically, we are providing an alternative to the current voting procedures. Some members find the current voting process less than desirable. Let's let each of the MAGCS members decide their destiny.

The author also asked why we need more membership classifications and other questions that were previously covered. Some people don't read the information in our publications or don't listen to the organized presentations arranged by the MAGCS. And then there are those who are so set in their thinking that they are not willing to listen to any views other than their own. The author asked the readers to "give it some thought". I only wish he had given the issues some thought based on the facts. It saddens me to see such an impulsive negative reaction. I only wish the author could find something good about GCSAA. I guess criticizing doers is more fun than proposing possible solutions.

I would hope that each member of GCSAA would evaluate the by-law proposals thoroughly and take the time to make up their own minds without being intimidated by the ones who whine and complain the loudest. This is what the democratic process is all about. I invite any GCSAA member to contact me personally to discuss the issues. Ultimately, it is **you**, the GCSAA member, that will set the tone for the future of our association and profession.

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Joel Purpur sent this photo in on a quick way to mount a 16 h.p. Billygoat Blower to a golf cart. Take off the wheels and handle — clamp it on and away you go. Greens, tees, and fairways are able to be blown without getting tired.

Clinic & NCTE Update

by Dave Blomquist, Education Chairman

The annual Midwest Clinic was held on November 18 at Medinah C.C. For those not in attendance, you missed a great program. First time, long time, and in time superintendents shared their experiences about everything from Cockatoos to Superintendent/Assistant relations. A panel of some of the finer mechanics in the area presented a report on the state of their profession and the individuals that comprise the association. It was very enlightening.

The highlight of the day was not the slide that showed Mike Baviers' bare bottom (sorry Mike), rather, it was Captain Al Haynes. Capt. Haynes is the pilot who flew the ill-fated DC-10 that crashed in Souix City, Iowa. His talk included a video presentation along with slides that supported his 5 reasons that 188 people survived the tragedy.

At the NCTE Bruce Williams conducted a workshop on Teamwork Concept of Golf Course Maintenance. 75 people attended and gained some insight into developing a more cohesive unit at their clubs. Thanks to Bruce for taking his time to share this program with us!

On the second day of the conference the MAGCS sponsored a roundtable pesticide discussion. Well over 300 people were in attendance! We were able to gain an insight to the pros and cons of pesticides and our general welfare. Highlights of that session:

- "Everything is dangerous, the question is what are the benefits vs. the risks" — Dr. Tom Lang, IL Dept. of Health
- "There aren't many birds on golf courses" — Barbara Mullarky, Mother Earth Network

Look for extended coverage of this discussion in the next issue. Special thanks go out to Marlin McMannis, Assistant Superintendent River Forest Golf Club, for videotaping Capt. Al Haynes at the Clinic and the Pesticide Roundtable. These tapes will become available in the MAGCS video library.