

the Bull Sheet

Official publication of the MIDWEST ASSOCIATION OF GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS.

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On Course With The President

It happens each year, and not only at one particular time during the year. We, the "Midwest", as an association, are repeatedly asked to generously donate scholarship and/or research funds to a wide variety of well intentioned and well deserving recipients. The MAGCS receives numerous requests for these funds and as an association we try to judiciously and fairly to distribute as many dollars to scholarship and research as the association's budget can afford. Whether the final recipient of the grant is an individual, an association, or a foundation; there is never a lack of return gratitude when any funding, regardless of the amount, is dispersed. There is absolutely no question of the need for continued and generous funding of these endeavors that at some future point shall serve to benefit us, the turfgrass managers. What has become a question, however, is how do we, the "Midwest", properly and adequately provide for these requests???

Volumes may be written about the merit of funding one area versus the other (scholarship vs. research, etc.) and about the many sub-divisions where any S&R dollars might go. We, the membership of the MAGCS, however, need to address an even more basic issue. How may we, an Association representing over 300 golf courses and 600 golf industry professionals, begin to more adequately serve and provide for the omnipresent need for always more of these dollars? At present, the issuance of Scholarship and Research funding comes wholly from the realm of the MAGCS annual operating budget. There

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never seems to be enough discretionary dollars to satisfy the needs and requirements of the potential recipients, and the list of those seeking virtually any level of funding does not seem to be shrinking. So what am I leading to?

We have, among the many of us, discussed and talked and considered a variety of ways to supplement the current and arguably low level of MAGCS scholarship and research funding. Continually, we search for and explore new ideas for the enhancement of this particular area. How DO we provide for the requests? There must be means, away from the MAGCS operating budget, of providing for this important funding. Too many well deserving entities are without the basic resource for their survival and their ultimate progression in the pursuit of the unknown in turfgrass research. And we, perhaps, are denying ourselves the privilege of the ultimate benefit of that expanded knowledge. What then, must we do? Think about it.

ATF